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C. F. HOFFMAN, EDITOR.

Reviews.

Religion and Poetry; being Selections from the Poetical Works of Robert Montgomery. With an Introductory Essay, by Archer Gurney. London: James Nisbet & Co.

WHEN an author presents his credentials upon ordinary and acknowledged grounds, we accept or reject him upon known and recognised principles. Should he toil to an eminence, for the purpose of casting a shadow side by side with those of Shakspeare and Milton, we adjust a glass and measure its length fearlessly; should he wrap himself in the gloomy solitude, the sublime egotism of Byron, we sound the depths of his misanthropy—the intensity of his passion with a remorselessness becoming our vocation; further, if, Scott-like, he trick himself with barb and shield, with trumpet blare and tourney pomp, we mount our Rosinante in hot pursuit. More than this, we thread the Lakes of Cumberland or Westmoreland, nothing loath, if so be Coleridge and Wordsworth tempt him to wizard dell, or “to lie down in green pastures and beside still waters;” but, when he betakes himself to sanctuary—when he clings to the horns of the altar—our reverence dare not approach him: we are no reckless bravo to pluck him thence—no Captain of a Host to tear the unfortunate Joab from the place of sacrifice.

This being the case, we open the poems of Robert Montgomery with a critical misgiving—a wariness, becoming a man already disarmed, standing before his foe, divested of sword and spear, while he is there with closed helmet, and armed to the teeth. Let us examine the case in point. Poetry is not doctrine—it is aspiration—it is not the truth of a party, of a sect, but the universal truth. It is not labor—the anvil and the spade—the great muscle and sweated brow—but the mysterious utterings of a human heart, the heart which, “as face answereth to face in water, so doth the heart of man to man,” and which works in its silent kingdom, independent of the mechanism of toil. It is the voice of all nature in her perpetual cadences (not the whistle of a locomotive)—it is the shout and the death-song of the warrior (not the essay of a peace man)—the fervid hope of the patriot (not the voice of a statesman)—it is the joy or the despair of the lover (not the sober bliss of the married man, who had best be silent); it is the language of Religion, the religion that strives upwards to God, whether from the rude sacrifice of the Indian, the altar of the Parsee, the breast of Ganges, or the cathedral of the Christian; but it is not the great, the sublime mystery of our Redemption—it is not the veiled councils of the Most High, such as Angels desire to look into, and before which even Poetry meekly stays her hand, and silently adores. Hers is the utterance of all human mystery, approximating to the Divine, but silent before those sacred oracles which Milton and Dante alone have touched, to issues such as we are able to endure.

She is human with an eye heavenward. Jurisprudence, Philosophy, Creed, Labor, in their manifold shapes, are all children of Minerva—a sober, respectable, prose talking pro-

geny—digging after a certain good, which is understandable—utilitarian and wise—but there is no poetry amongst them. The Poet, looking at the heart of man, battling with its destiny in the midst of these, grasps at the gushings of its emotions, its hopes and aspirations, and thus becomes the universal voice. The passion may be far from wise, the hope forlorn, and the aspiration impeded, yet it is the common and the true, and he strikes the key with a bold hand, sure of a response. The Utilitarian use of poetry is a death-blow to song.

According to the utilitarian standard—Othello should have put his case to the Chancellor, Lear have kept the sceptre in his own hands, or rather have parcelled out his lands to the individual people instead of feeling a triumvirate—and Hamlet should have talked about optical illusions. Milton, Festus-like, should have redeemed his terrible Satan, because he had been an instrument of good by testing virtue. This is making the child of impulse, of spontaneity, of intuition, a cold, plodding, and matter-of-fact reasoner; an armed and Gorgon-shielded intellect, before which the whole offspring of fancy are turned to stone, and from which the shafts of Apollo rebound innocuous. But to our book.

That Robert Montgomery is a good man, a good theologian, a warm admirer of nature—a clear if not profound thinker, a genial friend, warm, generous, and appreciative—we fully believe—that thus far he has the best elements for poetry we admit—but, a man may be all this, he may even go further and his cadences fill exquisite melody, and yet fall short of the Poet. Shelley has said that a Poet “makes the familiar appear as if it were not familiar,” in other words he creates an illusion. The mist may rise from the wayside and stagnant pool, he beholds only its transformation into the rainbow. The man who sees all things judiciously, properly, in their right bearings, may be very wise, but he is no Poet. We will not undertake to say that a Poet must not be wise, for he must be truly so, he must be able not only to see the common and obvious, which all minds see, but he must go beyond this; and over and above, by the intensity of his own perception and passion, he must cast a new and higher radiance—cast the hues of his own ideal world so over the actual that men shall sympathize therein—be lifted into his own seventh heaven, and see things otherwise hidden from their sight. Such being our views, we must lay aside the volume before us, with cordial sympathy for the purity and truthfulness of its sentiment, the loftiness of its subject matter for thought, and excellence of its moral bearing.

There is a great Art which the Poet learns from intuition, namely, the *subject* which is of itself poetic, which he seizes as his own, and then the *time* to drop it. This involves the great secret of poetic power. Wordsworth failed in this respect possibly as much as any man who ever held claims to the name of Poet; and were it not for his own beautiful spirit pervading the very atmosphere he breathes, we should often deny his claims—but the gush of power in the intimations of Immortality, the ringing melody of its numbers, like an organ tone, drown the voice of our revelling, and from our own hearts arise the sublime soundings of his Ode to Duty, and we are silent. The Poems of Robert Montgomery are long, and evidently labored. Thoughts of great beauty are profusely scattered, which remind us of those stern old antique heads we sometimes meet, looking so well in plain, heavy frames, and make us regret that they are not set in subdued

and quiet prose, rather than rendered into blank verse. Take the following as illustrative, which we have thrown without the change of a syllable into the form of printed prose.

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THE INFANT IN PRAYER.

“The smile of childhood, on the cheek of age.”

“A CHILD beside a mother kneels
With lips of holy love,
And fain would hush the vow it feels,
To Him enthron’d above.

That cherub gaze, that stainless brow,
So exquisitely fair!—
Who would not be an infant now,
To breathe an infant’s prayer?

No crime hath shaded its young heart,
The eye scarce knows a tear;
’Tis bright enough from earth to part
And grace another sphere!

And I was once a happy Thing,
Like that which now I see,
No May bird on ecstatic wing,
More beautifully free:

The cloud that bask’d in noontide glow
The flower that danced and shone,
All hues and sounds, above, below,
Were joys to feast upon!

Let wisdom smile—I oft forget
The colder haunts of men,
To hie where infant hearts are met,
And be a child again;

To look into the laughing eyes
And see the wild thoughts play,
While o’er each cheek a thousand dyes
Of mirth and meaning stray.

O Manhood! could thy spirit kneel
Beside that sunny child,
As fondly pray, and purely feel
With soul as undefil’d,

That moment would encircle thee,
With light and love divine;
Thy gaze might dwell on Deity,
And Heaven itself be thine!”

Having thus expressed the views of the Literary World, it is but courteous towards Mr. Gurney, the poetic editor of this, to many, acceptable volume, to quote here his well-expressed sentiments regarding Montgomery’s writings:—

“the most superficial reader of Montgomery’s poems cannot fail to perceive their occasional daring, and always more or less striking sublimity of thought, their moral and religious grandeur, their vast, and sometimes astonishing, force and power, the poetical beauty of the descriptive passages occurring in them, and the great command of language of the author, despite the drawback of an occasional exaggeration. Add to these the undoubted rhythmical beauty and variety of Montgomery’s blank verse, which is commonly relieved by the most artistic pauses or stops of various kinds; not, be it observed, introduced on system and for effect, but obviously the external development of that ‘inward melody of the poet’s soul,’ which undoubtedly resides within him. It is easy for a certain class of critics, or, indeed, for any men, to deride the equal and oft-times ma-

jestic flow of Montgomery's 'heroic stanza,' even in which his 'Omnipresence' is composed; but it may be greatly questioned, whether many or any of these contentments could attain to similar effects. Still Mr. Montgomery's *forte* does not reside in these, but in that blank verse which is the fitting garb of his greater didactic works, and which, of all mediums of poetic expression, is the truest test of genius."

Dombey & Son. By Charles Dickens. Nos. XI., XII., and XIII. New York: Wiley & Putnam. 1847.

It is a curious sign of the times that each number of these little pamphlets is looked for, on the arrival of every steamer, with an interest second only to that awakened by political and commercial news. An able writer has just issued in London an essay on the Degradation of Science in England, in which he argues that a provision should be made by government to insure the appearance of works of standard literary value, the booksellers being indisposed to give anything but fiction to the public. In attempting to explain this predominant taste, he does not recognise any cause but mere indolence of mind and love of amusement. We have observed, however, that such fictions as this of Dickens attract equally the erudite and thoughtless. Very profound scholars condescend to laugh at Susan Nipper's contortions, the Mac Stinger persecution, and Captain Cuttle's quotations, all of which, when found, are to be made a note of. If we look narrowly at this subject, it seems more reasonable to infer that fiction has gradually left the region of extravagance and sought its triumphs in truth. In fact the same revolution has occurred in this department of literature, which has taken place in art. A bust by Powers is certainly more desirable than a mythological caricature, and just in proportion as fiction is true to human nature and human life, it does for the mind what travel and society are chiefly prized for doing—affords subjects for observation and thought, and awakens the various sympathies. It is not so much the individual fortunes of the persons described by Dickens, or the events which he narrates—few of which are in the least degree extraordinary—that win the attention and engage the feelings of his readers; it is the relation between these scenes and characters and actual life—the identity of certain of the experiences with our own, and the wonderful similarity between some of the parties and our acquaintances. In almost every set of people there is a Doctor Blimber and a Miss Tox. Accordingly, the intelligent perusal of such works is a metaphysical study. It implies an analysis of character, for each of the prominent individuals might be phrenologically nomenclated. Carker is an impersonation of secretiveness unrelieved by moral feeling. Mrs. Toodle incarnates philoprogenitiveness, and Dombey self-esteem. Now the vivid, picturesque, and dramatic exhibition of these qualities brings them home to our consciousness. Few cultivate their observing faculties sufficiently to realize what may be called the elements and principles of life. Such writings as these reveal them distinctly, and therefore exert a great and desirable influence. Discuss a number of Dombey and Son with a thoughtful friend, and note how suggestive it is! Before you are aware of it, a whole chapter of the philosophy of human life is rehearsed, and some new phase of character discovered. It is, then, an indication of the humanity of the age that fiction which mirrors nature is thus in vogue; and there is a reason beyond the love of amuse-

ment, why such a multitude should be more concerned, in these hazardous times, for the continuance of the house of Dombey and Son, than for that of any other firm in Europe.

The Broad Pennant; or, a Cruise in the United States Flag Ship of the Gulf Squadron, during the Mexican Difficulties; together with Sketches of the Mexican War, from the Commencement of Hostilities to the Capture of the City of Mexico. By Rev. Fitch W. Taylor, A.M., U.S.N. Author of the "Flag Ship;" "A Voyage around the World;" "Ella V—, or the July Tour," &c. New York: Leavitt, Trow & Co.

THAT war is a great evil to nations; that it produces great individual misery, and tends, perhaps, above all other causes, to demoralize a people, cannot be denied. But such is the constitution of the human mind, that it is prone to dwell with satisfaction and deep interest on the exciting battles and incidents to which war gives birth, and to deck the very theatre of bloodshed and the display of the worst passions of our nature in colors the most attractive to the imagination. Whatever differences of opinion may prevail as to the origin and justness of the War with Mexico, we all must fall more or less under the influence above stated, and feel a spell thrown over its wild adventures, its heroic acts of daring, and its splendid achievements. We must feel proud as Americans of the military genius and skill, which have directed, and of the courage, energy, and moral power, which have ensured success to our arms at such fearful odds. Indeed, the age of chivalry records no deeds more lofty and self-devoted. No romance ever portrayed characters more high-minded and heroic,—how few will live to share their country's gratitude and honors,—how many have died on the battle-field to be mourned and honored by a nation's tears!

While such an excitement is felt on this subject, throughout the land, a work of this kind is greatly needed, and must possess a deep and peculiar interest, descriptive as it is of events which occurred in the Gulf of Mexico, and of the most striking incidents of the war. It is appropriately dedicated to the Secretary of the Navy. We will proceed to give a sketch of the Author's narrative. He sailed from Boston in the frigate Cumberland, and was borne by the trade-winds on his course south, beyond the regions of cold and storms to summer latitudes and placid seas. We have a playful and vivid description in page 32 of a mimic gale; and the writer has seized on associations connected with the seas through which he sailed, and blended them most happily with the scenes and duties of a life on board ship; which, from their novelty, variety, and striking character, will afford the reader much amusement. A natural and powerful association, too, arises in his mind, as the gallant ship coursed the Bahama Isles, while crossing the track of Columbus. We will give the author's own language:—

"What emotions must have thrilled the bosoms of the crews of those three ships (the Pinta, the Nina, and the Santa Maria), and sublimer still, the soul of that man, the chief of the gallant expedition, as the ships lay to for the few hours more before the break of day. The dreams of Columbus were now to be realized; and his heart must have ached of its breathings as he waited the developments of the morning. And then, with the earliest light, and in the sunniest seas, and in the softest climate, 'as April in Andalusia,' the shores of a New World opened upon him. The

green isle of San Salvador, as he afterwards named it, now fell on his vision, with its green pile, and trees like orchards, and fruits various and unknown; while the island was seen to be inhabited by a numerous people, as they gathered from the groves; and all giving the noble adventurer the triumph of his theories, success against the predictions of failure from opposing princes, and a name as immortal as the proudest of all preceding or succeeding time. I love to review associations, as they are awakened by localities over which I am passing. And the story of Columbus, as we course by the *Bahama Isles*, and along the sunny seas of the West Indies, comes up refreshingly to the memory as one first makes the traverse of the same seas, and notes how natural were the impressions of this adventurous navigator, and fancies what must have been the varied emotions that alternately ruled the superstitious crews, and the philosophic chief and officers, as they gave way to hope and fear, apparent success and succeeding disappointment; at one moment turning their most favorable circumstances into superstitious apprehensions, and at another moment ready for mutiny and for sacrificing their commander; at another, awed or persuaded or defied by his superior genius; and at another still, shouting 'gloria in excelsis' as the sequel of the exulting cry from the commander of the ever foremost Pinta, as he sent the hail to the ship of Columbus, exclaiming, 'Land, land, señor, I claim my reward!' and pointing at the same moment to the southwest, the course on which our own ship is now sailing. But ere long the loom of land, as had other appearances before this apparently more certain one, faded away, and seemed but another mysterious vision, which their superstitions began to think the unseen beings of these sunny climes were using to woo and decoy them onward to a ruin from which they never might again return. . . . But, having deviated from his course for a moment only to dissipate the false appearances, as seen by other eyes than his own, Columbus again stood due west with his ships; and ere long the cry, that could only be realized by one man of the world, and only once by him in the peculiarity which it now sounded, came to the ear of the bold navigator, and made him feel that a New World there *was*, and it was his—its gold, its viceroy and admiralty, and its fame. That fame all time will give to thee, thou noble Genoese!"

The sight of land is hailed, rising in its grandeur and its height far above the clouds—there is a peculiar sublimity in the scenery of the tropics—they surpass all the world beside for their elevation of mountain peaks and their huge ranges of mountain ridges, and for the striking beauty with which under a bright sun and piled along the blue sky, they are everywhere invested. A spirited sketch of the reducing sail on board of a man-of-war and of mooring ship off Vera Cruz is here given, and the frigate Cumberland, in which the author sailed, becomes the FLAG-SHIP of the Home Squadron—and hence is derived the title of the work, "the Broad Pennant," it being a flag carried only by the Commander-in-Chief of a fleet or squadron, and which designates the Commodore's ship. While the frigate is lying here, awaiting with the other ships of the squadron the developments of the Mexican government, being yet uncertain whether Mr. Slidell would be received as a minister plenipotentiary and negotiations be entered upon or not, our author takes a trip across the continent to the western shores of South America. He gives, on his way, a lively and detailed description of the manners, customs, and civil and religious institutions of these countries, the more interesting as they are a kindred people to Mexico, and serve to illustrate the Mexican institutions and character. The western states of South America were settled by the same na-

tion as Mexico, and are alike in their origin, their habits, and their superstitions. The descriptions of Chili and Peru are graphic and striking. An account of the state of the Roman Catholic Church, and its influence upon the minds of men, is given with great clearness and force—Valparaiso and Lima are, with their bold outlines and extended views, their splendid Cathedrals, their gorgeous ceremonies, their thrilling associations with the past, most happily sketched, and possess a deep interest for the general reader. We give the following extract as a specimen of the author's style, and his views on an exciting topic in the present era of the Church:

"*Liberty of thought is a sin, according to the Romish creed. Liberty of action is denied to those who adopt their creed. Liberty of person is even precarious, where the creed of the Papal church holds its preponderance. Each of these propositions I feel ready to substantiate, from my own personal observation, if called for, or is desirable. And though I believe in the sincerity of some of the clergy of the Episcopal Church, who, from their high church prepossessions, are driven to the countenance of Puseyism, I yet feel that they are doing a most unpatriotic service to their country—endangering their priceless birthright, as American citizens—and jeoparding the dearest interests of the Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States of America, by the advocacy of an assimilation to the Roman system, or by an attempt to palliate and to conceal the tendencies and the defects of the Papal politico-religious Hierarchy, the spirit of which I believe, from observation as well as from reading, has not been changed, nor ever will be, so long as the canons of the Council of Trent shall form its constitution, and a Papal head at Rome directs its executive and spiritual concerns in the world. I have wished to be as forbearing as possible, in Christian charity, towards the Catholic Church. I have wished to find some counterbalancing good, that would lead me to hope a reform in its spirit of intolerance, not only in principle but also in practice. I have looked in vain. I have waited in the formation of my opinions. I have examined, and I have seen, at home and abroad; and have come to a conclusion, which I dislike to embrace, in all charity; but I am forced to believe, in my conscience, that the Spirit of Popery is unchanged—its supremacy in any country, unchecked by the attacks of political, religious, and personal freedom, would lead again to the repetition of acts of barbarity, that this age shudders at. And further, I believe, that the advance of science and philosophy, especially the more accurate philosophy of the mind, in our day, and of advancing time, as is hoped, will undermine this institution, which now trammels the intellect and the religious freedom of its members, and that it will fall; a splendid ruin, indeed, of days gone by, but whose pillars, and capitals, and dome shall present, to the mental philosopher, proportions of far less beauty for a spiritual temple, than ancient architecture has left us for models, in structures of material workmanship."*

The author returned to the Cumberland—the war action of the fleet commences by a movement of the ships northward. They arrive off the Brazos de Santiago in time to hear the guns of the first battle of the war and to see the clouds of smoke arise from the battle field of Palo Alto—they land a force in time to protect Point Isabel in case of need.

The author here gives an animated description of the intense interest and excitement felt on board the ships while the battle was raging, and of the enthusiasm with which this first and glorious triumph of our arms was hailed. The work continues the action of the squadron to the landing of the forces at Vera Cruz, and the fall of the Town and Castle.

It vividly describes the taking of the different towns on the coast, until the last one, accessible, was held by the American forces. As it regards the failure of the Alvarado expedition, the author places the squadron and its officers in a proper light, and vindicates the character for efficiency and gallantry of this arm of our defence. There are many incidental scenes in the work of a most exciting character. Nothing could possess a more thrilling interest than the whole description of the hanging of Samuel Jackson, a seaman, in obedience to a sentence of a court-martial. The interviews of the author with this unfortunate man, show his character in a highly favorable light, and are painfully interesting. The dreadful catastrophe we give in his own words:—

"As I drew near him the words came from his lips, in earnestness of entreaty:

"Oh God—have mercy on my soul!

"Oh Christ—have mercy on my soul!

"O Jesus, into thy hands I commit my spirit!"

"It was while one of the last two sentences was dwelling on the lips of this unfortunate man, that the officer, leaning over the fore-castle deck, said, in rather a suppressed voice, 'FIRE!' At the same moment the platform on which the prisoner stood, rose—the prisoner himself bounded a few feet in the air as the loud report of the cannon echoed over the waters; and, as if no space had intervened, the now senseless but one moment before praying man, was hanging, at the fore-yard-arm of the Saint Mary! No muscle moved—no limb contracted. The concussion of the gun had indeed killed him; and there he hung the spectacle for a fleet to look upon, as evidence that a broken law will have its penalty, and to what an end a man may suddenly be brought, by the indulgence of ONE EBULLITION OF PASSION."

As a specimen of the author's descriptive style, and his happy manner of associating things with times, we give an extract written on Christmas night, while the frigate is on her way home. The passage is somewhat strained and ambitious, but we like the feeling of it too well to quarrel with its departure from severe taste:—

"The sky is lighted up yet by bright stars—a blue sky, and a smiling moon—while the blow is yet increasing to a gale, and the ship rolls more and more. And even as I write, a lurch of the noble ship has sent a thousand things into a general *melange*, and an uproarious shout is pealing through the ward-room. But all is right again, as the fragments are gathered up, and a new adjustment of movables and packages is made, for the better encountering of a yet heavier and more sudden contortion, roll, pitch, and tumble, into which the good ship shall next find herself. Two more reefs have been taken in the fore and main top-sails, and the sail of the ship is otherwise reduced. And yet she is going at the rate of nine and a half knots the hour. And thus let her go. She is a noble racer. And to stand on the deck and list to the roar of the wind through her cordage—see the white foam of the surges that dash around her—the officer of the deck in his northwester, and the well-trained eye of the Captain scanning every cord, and brace, and spar, as the noble courser is held on her track with a taut rein, but with a free gift of will to bound at the top of her speed, at once awakens a glow of enthusiasm for the beautiful movement of the ship, and gives sublimity to the emotions, as one feels how glorious is man's art, and how godlike is the ocean, on whose bosom this masterpiece of beauty is cutting her way, while yet she is but a speck, in all her majesty and sublimity of movement, compared with the yet grander, sublimer, all majestic and terrific ocean, that tosses her on its but just awaking billows, like a buoyant feather just dropped from the wing of a passing gull. Merry Christ-

mas to you, then, our noble ship! Bound on your way like a dancing mermaid, from surge to surge, while the white foam of the blue billows, as they wreath their beautiful folds of curling spray, or throw up their cascades of brilliant gems that scintillate in the moonbeams of this beautiful but troubled night, are now decking you as if with scarfs of gossamer, spangled with the gems of the seas. Dance on, then, merrily onward, beautiful mermaid of the deep! There is grace in your every step—poetry in every surge of your moving form—and right well and gloriously are you stepping over the pliant expanse, that serves you a the blue-floored hall of your beautiful, buoyant, brilliant movement of the night. Dance on, then, dance on; and again, a merry Christmas to you, beautiful mermaid of the deep!"

We should dwell much longer on the scenes so graphically described in this work, did not the length of this article already admonish us to close our remarks and extracts here. We have only to recommend it to the perusal of the intelligent reader. The subjects embraced in it are peculiarly interesting at this period. It brings prominently forward many of the characters which have won a proud distinction in the war with Mexico, and throws a light over many of the events of that war, which are here only partially known and understood. It abounds in faithful and spirited descriptions—contains much moral and useful information—shows the writer to possess a highly contemplative and observing mind, and a high tone of moral and religious feeling pervades the whole. It is written in a somewhat florid but easy and flowing style, and we doubt not it will be extensively read, and add to the popularity of the author of "A Voyage around the World."

Lord Mahon's History of England, from the Peace of Utrecht to the Peace of Paris.

PERHAPS no period of English history is less generally known to even most educated Americans, and Englishmen as well, than the reigns of the first and second Georges. With the Norman Conquest and even the Saxon Heptarchy most readers have a most intimate acquaintance, since the historical accounts of each epoch are preserved in the classic style of the standard historians; while affairs and men of a little more than a century since, are becoming antiquated and almost obsolete.

It is much the same with our own history, of which the classical portion only has been treated with spirit and philosophy. The age of the Revolution, the heroic age of our country, has not yet met its fit historian. So too with the history of our noble State and beloved city (unless we except the witty chronicle of her Dutch dynasty, and a few eras and incidents), with both their faithful and loving chronicler during the whole period of the English colony and society, we would yet point to.

But to return to the history of England; under the first two princes of the house of Hanover, it is astonishing how rapidly the memory of the (then) memorable incidents of those reigns are passing away, or best preserved by the historical novelist, the antiquarian collector of ballads or state papers, or the indefatigable collector of court gossip.

We are happy then to encounter a readable, a lively, and yet sensible account of those times: a narrative certainly not equal to them, but much superior to Smollett (who, inimitable as a comic satirist, is a leaden historian), and from the pen of a living writer.

Of the capacity, talent, industry, and honesty of the noble historian, we have the testimony of Macaulay to the merits of his previous

work—the History of the War of the Succession, an able and entertaining book, of which the critic has given a most brilliant analysis. He should do the same by this work which he has done partially in other articles. He would give a vivid and accurate picture of the events and characters of this period, which would supersede any further notice.

To do anything like full justice of this kind to such a production, would require the fifty pages of a Quarterly; all we shall pretend to do, at present, will be to offer a general outline of the history, with a few critical strictures.

A reprint of this work, to be enriched by a preface and notes by Professor Reed, is announced by the Messrs. Appleton, but is not yet published. In the interval, and by way of anticipation, we have been induced to throw these remarks together, in order to make known an historical production of genuine value, with the very title of which we have been surprised to find very few persons cognisant.

The space of time which the narrative covers is from the Peace of Utrecht, 1713, to the Peace of Paris, 1762; including the entire reigns of Geo. I. and II.; with the concluding scenes in the last act of Queen Anne's reign, and the opening, in the reign of Geo. III. Since Hume, we know not the English historian who has produced so pleasing a production on the period he has chosen.

This half century is by no means the least important portion of English History; but it is full of interest. To the statesman, the agitation and final settlement of the question of the Protestant succession, the varying success and bitter conflicts of Whig and Tory, the parties in the Church, and the characters of the great political leaders of that day, render judicious and spirited relation exceedingly attractive. To the military man, also, an account of the wars on the Continent, and the old French war, being both parts of the seven years' war, is of value.

The romantic history and adventures of the Pretender and his son, the battles of Preston Pans and Culloden (the whole history is a romance), is always captivating on the pages of Chambers or Mahon, in the romances of Scott, or the verses of Campbell.

Then, too, the remarkable events, in finance and commercial speculations, sea fights, as well as land battles, would make the plainest account of them agreeable. The famous South Sea Company and Mississippi scheme of Law (of which Irving has written an elegant account), Wood's patent and Swift's pamphlets, the siege of Carthage and the taking of Porto Bello, with many other incidents of a similar nature.

The men of that age, what a galaxy of able and brilliant public characters! Oxford and St. John, Atterbury and Swift, Stanhope and Walpole, Chesterfield and the elder Pitt, Pulteney and Windham, Somers and Holt, orators and statesmen of the very first class.

Military and naval genius was not deficient; though Marlborough was passing off the stage, he left behind him warriors worthy of his school. Two celebrated Admirals, among a number, are prominent, Byng and Hosier. We speak only of English genius. On the Continent, this period could show a Berwick and a Saxe, and three great Kings, also great Generals, Charles of Sweden, Peter of Russia, and Frederick.

The peculiar qualities of Lord Mahon for his task are, as far as we can judge, indefatigable industry, undoubted sincerity, and sound judg-

ment. He is acute in discriminating, and happy in delineating, character. His narrative is clear and racy, without the charming grace of Hume or the melody and richness of Irving or Robertson, which might after all be misplaced in a political history.

The personal histories and biographical sketches that occur frequently, are especially agreeable, and carry an air of reality and truth on their face.

The history contains a gallery of portraits worthy of the successor of Hume, and much more spirited than we find in the pages of any living English historian we can think of: equal to the brilliant portraits of Bancroft. Purely military or naval scenes, accounts of battles and sieges, probably impress the author less than statements of political transactions and civil affairs.

For the historian is himself a practical statesman, from his position and pursuits, and can naturally best appreciate the talents and qualities of a great diplomatist, or an able debater. Yet he is by no means unjust to other talents and claims.

If not equal to Napier as a military historian, he is far superior to Burnet, who had a warlike king (in William III.) to write the reign of.

We will transcribe a few of the most attractive portraits, to show our author's skill as a painter; though his talent is by no means confined to that line of writing; but it is more easy to give proofs of his success in that, than in general narrative, or particular description.

CHARACTERS OF HARLEY AND BOLINGBROKE.

“Robert Harley, Earl of Oxford, and at this time Lord Treasurer and Prime Minister, is one of the most remarkable examples in history, how it is possible to attain both popularity and power without either genius or virtue. Born in 1661, and bred in Presbyterian principles, which, however, he was not slow in forsaking, he entered parliament soon after the accession of King William, and was during four years Speaker of the House of Commons. On quitting the Chair, in 1704, he was made Secretary of State, through the recommendation of Marlborough. He was, however, an object of suspicion to his other colleagues. ‘His humor,’ says Lord Chancellor Cowper at the time, ‘is never to deal clearly or openly, but always with reserve, if not dissimulation, and to love tricks when not necessary, but from an inward satisfaction of applauding his own cunning.’ He had hitherto, in a great measure, skillfully trimmed between the Tories and the Whigs, and secured a great number of adherents from both. But almost immediately after his junction with the latter, he began to cabal against them; obtained private interviews with the Queen, through the means of Mrs. Masham; gradually worked himself into her Majesty's confidence, and filled her with distrust of her responsible advisers. His letters at that period to Marlborough and Godolphin prove that he knew how to combine the most subtle schemes of malice with the most ardent professions of friendship. His plotting being at length partly brought to light, he was compelled to resign in February, 1708. But he immediately put himself at the head of the Tories; and, retaining his back-stairs influence at Court, his early friends amongst the Dissenters, he, in little more than two years, undermined and overthrew the great Whig administration. He became chief of that which succeeded, obtained not only the Treasurer's staff, but the Earldom of Oxford, and, next to Mrs. Masham herself, was now the most important subject of the realm. He seems to have possessed in perfection a low sort of management, and all the baser arts of party, which enabled him to cajole and keep together his followers, and to sow divisions amongst his enemies. He spared neither pains

nor promises to secure adherents. He affected upon every question a tone of forbearance and candor. But he was one of those inferior spirits who mistake cunning for wisdom. His slender and pliant intellect was well fitted to crawl up to the heights of power through all the crooked mazes and dirty by-paths of intrigue; but having once attained the pinnacle, its smallness and meanness were exposed to all the world. From the moment of his triumph, the expert party leader was turned into the most dilatory and helpless of ministers. His best friends were reduced to complain that no business could be done with him. ‘Lord Treasurer,’ says Swift, ‘is the greatest procrastinator in the world. He only says, ‘Poh! poh! all will be well.’ He told Mr. Lewis it should be determined to-night, and so he will say a hundred nights.’ Even his taste for literature was numbered amongst his faults; for in him (if I may borrow a phrase from Tillotson) it was only a specious and ingenious sort of idleness. In personal intercourse he was mild, courteous, and conciliatory; but in public affairs, whenever he could temporize no longer, and was driven to some decision, he had a bias to prerogative and arbitrary measures, as being most easy and convenient to himself. With all his indolence in business, he was so jealous of its possession as to claim from his colleagues a larger share of it than even the greatest genius and activity could have satisfactorily transacted. Such was the new Prime Minister of England.

“His principal colleague, Henry St. John, was born in 1678. He was only son by his father's first marriage, the heir to a good estate in Wiltshire, and spring from a younger branch of the Lords St. John of Bletsoe—one of the most ancient and illustrious houses in the kingdom. His early education was directed by a puritanical mother, whose imprudent zeal compelled him painfully to peruse huge tomes of controversial divinity when far too young to understand their value, and thus, perhaps, implanted in his mind the first seeds of his aversion to the truths of Revelation. ‘I resolve,’ he says himself, writing to Swift in 1721, ‘to make my letter at least as long as one of your sermons; and, if you do not mend, my next shall be as long as one of Dr. Manton's, who taught my youth to yawn, and prepared me to be a High Churchman, that I might never hear him read, nor read him more.’ It is, in fact, not a little remarkable, that the two great champions of High Church at this time—Oxford and Bolingbroke—should both have been bred amongst the dissenters. Manton, whom Bolingbroke thus alludes to, was a non-conforming and most voluminous divine, very worthy, but a little tedious, who, being impressed with some fanciful idea as to the analogy of numbers, wrote 119 sermons upon the 119th Psalm!

“Young St. John pursued his studies at Eton and Oxford, and at the dissolution of Parliament, in 1700, was elected member for Wotton Bassett. He entered public life endowed with every gift of nature, of fortune, and of education, except the most important of all—fixed principles. A handsome person, a strong constitution, a most engaging, yet most dignified, manner, were his external recommendations; and were supported by a rich fund of reading, deep powers of thought, and boundless ambition. He looked through the characters of others with a keen and searching eye. His eloquence, both commanding and rewarding the attention of his hearers, was ready, full, and gushing; according to his own beautiful illustration, it flowed like a stream that is fed by an abundant spring, and did not merely spout forth, like a frothy water, on some gaudy day. His genius was vast and lofty, yet able to contract itself at will—scarcely anything too great for its grasp, and scarcely anything too minute for its care. With such splendid abilities, such active ambition, he might have been the greatest and most useful of statesmen of his or, perhaps, of any age. But he utterly wanted virtue. He was no believer in revealed religion, whose tenets he attempted to sap in his writings

and disregard in his life. He had early rushed into pleasure with an eagerness and excess that might have been forgiven his youth and his ardent passions, had he not afterwards continued them from a miserable personal vanity. He aimed at being the modern Alcibiades—a man of pleasure at the same time a man of business; sitting up one night to reel at a drunken orgy—sitting up the next to compose a despatch on which the fate of Europe might hang; at one hour dealing forth his thunderbolts of eloquence to the awe-struck senate—at another whispering soft words in the ear of yielding beauty! In this unworthy combination he lost all dignity of mind. There ceased to be any consistency between his conduct and his language. No man ever spoke more persuasively of the fatigue of business, yet no man was more fretful and uneasy in retirement. For him, activity was as necessary as air for others. When excluded from public life, there were no intrigues, however low and grovelling, to which he did not stoop in order to return to it. Yet all his writings breathe the noblest principles of independence. ‘Upon the whole of this extraordinary character,’ says his intimate friend, Lord Chesterfield, ‘what can we say but. Alas poor human nature!’

“As a writer, Lord Bolingbroke is, I think, far too little admired in the present day. Nor is this surprising. His works naturally fail to please us from the false end which they always have in view, and from the sophistical arguments which they are, therefore, compelled to urge. As a politician, he wished to prove that the peace of Utrecht was honorable; as a philosopher, that the Christian religion was untrue; to one or other of these points his observations are always tending. It is no wonder, therefore, if, from the worthlessness of the materials, we are disposed to undervalue the beauty of the workmanship. But surely his style, considered apart from his matter, seems the perfection of eloquence. It displays all the power and richness of the English language; and in all its changes, never either soars into bombast, or sinks into vulgarity. We may observe with admiration, that even when defending the cause of tyranny, he knows how to borrow his weapons from the armory of freedom. The greatest praise of Bolingbroke’s style is, however, to be found in the fact, that it was the study and the model of the two greatest minds of the succeeding generation—Mr. Burke and Mr. Pitt. The former, as is well known, had so closely imbued himself with it, that his first publication was a most ingenious, and, to many persons, deceptive imitation of its manner. To Mr. Pitt it was recommended by the example and advice of his illustrious father, who, in one of his letters, observes of Oldcastle’s Remarks, that they ‘should be studied and almost got by heart, for the inimitable beauty of the style.’ Mr. Pitt, accordingly, early read and often recurred to these political writings; and he has several times stated in conversation to the present Lord Stanhope, that there was scarcely any loss in literature which he so deeply deplored, as that no adequate record of Bolingbroke’s speeches should remain. What glory to Bolingbroke, if we are to judge of the master by his pupils.”

Here follows an admirable sketch of the character of George I. :—

“The new King was a man of more virtue than accomplishments. His private character—if, indeed, the character of a king can ever be called private—was upright, honorable, and benevolent. He was apt to remember services much longer than injuries—a quality rare in every rank of life, but least of all common with princes. He was steady in his friendships; even in his temper; sparing, and sometimes niggardly, in his expenses. This severe economy also extended to his time, which he distributed with the precision of a piece of machinery, and of which he devoted no small share to public business. A desire for peace was in him combined with tried valor and military

knowledge, and he loved his people as much as he was capable of loving anything. But unhappily, his qualities, however solid, were not shining. A heavy countenance—an awkward address—an aversion to the pomp of majesty, nay even to acclamations which greeted him, disgusted the multitude; while men of education were mortified at finding that he neither loved nor encouraged any branch of literature or science, nor any one of the fine arts, except music. Politicians complained of his unbending obstinacy and contracted understanding. ‘His views and affections,’ says Lord Chesterfield, ‘were singly confined to the narrow compass of his electorate; England was too big for him.’ A diffidence of his own parts made him reluctant to speak in public, and select for his familiar society persons of inferior intellect and low buffoonery; nor did he ever show a proper dignity, either in his mind or manners.

“It may seem absurd to reckon amongst the faults of this prince that he was already fifty-four years of age, attached to German customs, and utterly ignorant of the English language; yet there can be no doubt that these were the circumstances which most impeded his good government or extensive popularity.”

And we give, as a concluding extract, this discriminative portrait and well written biographical sketch of the character of Walpole :—

“Robert Walpole was born in 1676, of an ancient gentleman’s family in Norfolk. His natural indolence would probably have overpowered and kept down his natural abilities, had he not been a third son, and seen the necessity of labor for his bread. At Eton, where he was the contemporary, and in some degree the rival of St. John, he was educated as one intended for the church, and used to say of himself afterwards, with perhaps no unreasonable vanity, that had he taken orders, he should have been Archbishop of Canterbury instead of Prime Minister. But at the age of twenty-two, he found himself, by the death of his brothers, heir to the family estate, with a double advantage—the inheritance of an elder and the application of a younger son. On the decease of his father, in 1700, he was returned to Parliament for the family borough of Castle Rising. He immediately and zealously attached himself to the Whigs; and as, besides the two seats of Castle Rising, he could command another at Lynn, he brought his party no small accession of political patronage. The first time he rose to speak (on what subject is not recorded), he by no means fulfilled the hopes of his friends; he was confused and embarrassed, and, according to the parliamentary phrase, ‘broke down.’ But his perseverance soon retrieved this failure. The occasion on which he appears to have first distinguished himself was the celebrated proceeding on Aylesbury election in 1704; and thus, by a curious contrast, the statesman, who was afterwards denounced as the most profligate parliamentary leader ever known in England, the very ‘father of corruption,’ gained his earliest laurels as the champion of free election!

“From this time forward Walpole slowly but steadily rose in fame as a debater. He also naturally contracted a close friendship and intimacy with many of the leading men of his party, especially with Lord Treasurer Godolphin; with Pulteney, who in after life became his chief rival and antagonist; and with Stanhope, who had taken his brother Horace as his private secretary. In March, 1705, he was appointed one of the council to the Lord High Admiral; and in 1708, when St. John resigned the Secretaryship of War, Walpole was promoted to that office. Next year he was also made Treasurer of the Navy. In 1710 he was one of the managers of Sacheverell’s impeachment; but when the disgrace of his friends followed close upon that ill-advised, or at least unfortunate measure, he honorably adhered to their falling fortunes, and in spite of some insidious overtures from Harley, threw up his Secretaryship in September the same year. His party attach-

ment, however, was soon to expose him to greater evils than the loss of place. In December, 1711, a charge of corruption was brought forward against him in the House of Commons, relating to some forage contracts, which, as Secretary at War, he had made in Scotland. Witnesses were examined, and Walpole heard in his defence. A warm debate ensued; and at length the House resolved, ‘That Robert Walpole, Esq., was guilty of a breach of trust, and notorious corruption; that he should be committed prisoner to the Tower of London;’ and on a subsequent motion, ‘That he should be expelled the House.’ It is quite certain, however, from the temper of his judges, that even the most evident innocence, or the strongest testimonies, would not have shielded him from condemnation, and that, had he made no forage contracts at all, or made them in the spirit of an Aristides or a Pitt, he would have been expelled with equal readiness by that House of Commons—the same which did not blush to hurl an unworthy charge of peculation against Marlborough.

“On his condemnation, Walpole surrendered himself a prisoner, and was sent to the Tower. His sentence, so far from impairing his character, raised his reputation. He was considered a martyr to his party, and praised as martyrs real or fancied always are. He received repeated visits in prison from Marlborough, Somers, Godolphin, and the other chief men of the day; and when released at the end of the session in July, 1712, he found himself raised to an important personage in the estimation of his friends. The Tories, however, still continued to look upon him as a very subordinate character; and so late as 1713, we find Swift, in some satirical verses, place Walpole in the lowest ranks of the Whigs as a contrast to Lord Somers.

“An attempt had been made to re-elect Walpole for his borough; but the House of Commons declared him incapable of sitting in that Parliament, and he was therefore excluded till the dissolution next year. In the interval he assisted Steele in the composition of several party pamphlets, continued and improved his political connexions, and on re-entering Parliament (from which point he joins and is carried on with the current of my narrative), he spoke with an energy and effect which he never yet had attained. The Ministers found that in attempting to crush, they had only sharpened his hostility.

“The talents of Walpole were eminently practical, and fit for the conduct of great affairs. He was always steady, and therefore usually successful in his schemes. His views of policy were generally most acute, and his knowledge of finance profound. No fanciful theory, no love of abstract principles, ever warped his judgment; even the most trying circumstances could very seldom ruffle his good humor; and, calm himself, he worked upon the passions of others. So closely had he studied all the weak points of human nature—so skilfully were his address and management adapted to them, that he scarcely ever failed either in public or in private, to gain upon his hearers. There have certainly been many more eloquent orators, but never, I believe, a more dexterous debater. He would not willingly leave even the least part of his subject untouched. He knew that weak minds seldom yield to a single argument, even to the strongest, but are more easily overpowered by a number, of whatever kind. ‘Always catching and always following the disposition of the House—knowing exactly when to press, and when to recede—able at pleasure to unfold the most intricate details, or to involve in specious reasoning the grossest fallacies—he, in the long run, prevailed over spirits far more lofty and soaring.

“We are assured, however, that the powers of debate were not those to which he entirely or principally trusted for the management of the House of Commons. The indignant clamor of his contemporaries—the eloquent voice of a Wyndham—the magic pen of a Bolingbroke—have denounced in glowing terms the patron and parent of parliamentary corruption. Beneath

the flowers of their rhetoric, and the venom of their party rancor, there is no doubt a foundation of truth. But the more equal tribunal of posterity has discovered no small excuse for him in the political turpitude even of many who thus arraigned him—in the general lowness and baseness of his age—in the fact that so many of the representatives of the people were on sale, and ready, if not bought by Walpole, to be bid for by the Jacobites. The more the private letters of this period come to light the more is this truth apparent. What shall we say, for example, when we find the great-grandson and representative of the Hampdens, and himself a distinguished statesman, have the effrontery to threaten in writing, that, unless he can obtain a pension from the reigning family, he will 'very soon take service in some other family'—meaning the Pretender's? Are we really justified in speaking as if public men had been all disposed to be virtuous and incorruptible during Walpole's government, and were turned from the paths of honor by the address of that wily tempter?

"Besides, are not these charges against Walpole made by extreme exaggeration, even on the testimony of his enemies themselves? At the fall of Walpole a select committee was appointed to inquire into his public conduct during the last ten years, and out of its 21 members, that committee comprised no less than 19 of his bitterest enemies. The Minister then stood forsaken and alone—there was no Court favor at his back—no patronage or lucre in his hands—much popularity to gain, and no danger to run by assailing him. Yet, even under such favorable circumstances, what did this ten years' siege upon his character, this political Troy, really bring forth at last? What facts does the report allege in support of its avowed hostility? An attempt upon the virtues of the Mayor of Weymouth! The promise of a place in the revenue to a returning officer! The atrocity of dismissing some excise officers who had voted against the Government candidate! Vague surmises from the large amount of secret service money! Now, if Walpole had in real truth been corrupter of his age—he had prostituted public honors or public rewards in the cause of corruption—if fraudulent contracts, undue influence at elections, and bribed members of Parliament, were matters of every day occurrence—if, in short, only one tenth part of the outcry against Walpole was well founded, how is it possible that powerful and rancorous opponents should be able to find only so few, imperfect, and meagre proofs to hurl against him? No defence on the part of Walpole's friends is half so strong and convincing as this failure of his enemies.

"On these grounds, then, I think we are justified in asserting—first, that there was extreme exaggeration in the charges against Walpole, and, secondly, that there is no small excuse to be found for him in the tone and temper of his age. I am far, however, from denying that considerable corruption did exist. I am even inclined to believe that Walpole did not sufficiently strive against it, and went beyond the supposed necessities of the case. An honest minister, even if unable to stem the tide of corruption—even if he can reconcile it to his conscience to be borne along by it—should at least never lose the hope of changing its direction, and purifying its waters. Still less should he do anything to strengthen its current and aggravate its foulness. Now, it appears to me that the corruption of public men, so far from diminishing, rather grew and increased during the long administration of Walpole. On this point it is impossible to produce any English testimony that shall be considered quite free from partiality. But Count Palm, the Imperial Minister in London, could have no bias for or against the previous characters of our history, and we find him in 1726 apparently limiting the corruption of the House of Commons within 'these few years.' Some other testimonies might I think be shown. But it also seems to me that the sort of language which we are assured was held by Walpole in familiar

conversation was calculated to prolong and to perpetuate a low tone of public morals. He used to talk of honesty and patriotism, as 'school-boy flights;' of himself as 'no saint,' 'no Spartan,' 'no reformer;' and ask young men when first entering public life, with their inborn feelings and classic themes of freedom fresh upon them, 'Well, are you to be an old Roman?—a patriot? You will soon come off that, and grow wiser.'—Thank God! the next generation did not 'come off that,' and was 'wiser!'

"The administration of Walpole was prudently and beneficially directed to the maintenance of peace abroad, to the preservation of quiet and progress of prosperity at home. It may, however, be doubted whether, in his domestic policy, he was not too fond of palliatives, and applied himself merely to silence complaints, instead of redressing wrongs. It is also to be observed, that though he loved peace much, he loved his own power more. He kept the country from hostilities so long as he could do so with safety to himself; but when the alternative lay between a foolish war and a new administration, he never hesitated in deciding for the former. Office was, indeed, his natural element; when excluded from it, he was, as we have seen, most turbulent and restless; he crept back to it, through a peculiarly humbling coalition; and even at the end, Speaker Onslow assures us that he 'went very unwillingly out of his power.'

"The knowledge of Walpole was very limited, and he patronized literature as little as he understood it. 'In general,' says his son, 'he loved neither reading nor writing.' 'How I envy you!' he exclaimed to Fox, whom he found one day, after his fall, reading in the library at Houghton. His splendid success in life, notwithstanding his want of learning, may tend to show what is too commonly forgotten in modern plans of education, that it is of far more importance to have the mind well disciplined than richly stored—strong rather than full. Walpole was, however, fond of perusing and quoting Horace, to whom, in his private character, he might, perhaps, not unaptly be compared. He was good-tempered, joyous, and sensual, with an elegant taste for the arts; a warm friend, an indulgent master, and a boon companion. We are told of him, that whenever he received a packet of letters, the one from his gamekeeper was usually the first which he opened. To women he was greatly addicted, and his daughter by his second wife was born before their marriage. He had an easy and flowing wit, but too commonly indulged it to the utmost limits of coarseness; and Savage, who had seen him familiarly at Lord Tyrconnel's, used to say of him that the whole range of his mind was from obscenity to politics, and from politics to obscenity. In his private expenses, he was not only liberal but lavish; and it must be acknowledged that the magnificence of his buildings, the extent of his purchases, and the profusion of his entertainments at Houghton, gave his enemies no small handle for invective. He should have recollected that the display of wealth by a Prime Minister is always unpopular with the multitude; if acquired, it excites suspicion; if inherited, envy. So true is this, that in democracies an outward air of poverty is often considered the best recommendation to public favor and confidence. In the United States an intelligent French traveller lately saw an eminent living statesman, a candidate for the Presidency, canvassing in a patched coat and ragged hat. Such is the uniform of the courtiers to King Mob!

"It would be unjust to Walpole to conclude his character without alluding to his mildness and placability towards his political opponents. The system under which contending statesmen used to raise up rival scaffolds, and hunt down one another even to the death, ended during his administration; although I must own that I think no small part of the praise belongs to the personal clemency and kindness of George the First and George the Second. On the whole Walpole appears to me to have been a man of many useful and some great qualities; who

faithfully served his country, but who never forgot his own family; and who rose partly by the frailties of others, as well as by merits of his own. With every allowance for the 'evil days and evil tongues' amongst which his lot had fallen, it is impossible not to own that his character wants something of moral elevation. Name him in the same sentence with a Chatham, and who will not feel the contrast? The mind of Chatham bears the lineaments of a higher nature; and the very sound of his name carries with it something lofty and august. Of Walpole on the other hand, the defects—nay, perhaps, even the merits—have in them something low and common. No enthusiasm was ever felt for his person; none was ever kindled by his memory. No man ever inquired where his remains are laid, or went to pay a homage of reverence at his tomb. Between him and Chatham there is the same difference as between success and glory!"

These are by no means specimens much superior to the general strain of the history. Its uniform texture is equally good.

Lord Mahon is the last of the noble historians, and would deserve a higher place in Walpole's catalogue than any he has noticed, except Clarendon; of whose transcendent power of portraiture, Mahon has a large share, while, at the same time, his narrative and description are far better, since plainer and much more unostentatious than the swelling and stately march of the author of the History of the Civil War.

Home Correspondence.

THE Literary World is indebted to a correspondent for the following original and whimsical anecdote of General Jackson. In giving place to it, we are somewhat in doubt whether it does not properly come under the head of "Arts and Sciences."—

At the time of General Jackson's first inauguration, as President of the United States, Dr. A—, now a resident practitioner in the city of New York, was residing in Troy, and among his visitors and intimate friends was numbered the well-remembered ex-Sheriff Parkins, who always made the Doctor's house his home, whenever business or inclination called him to that city.

On one of these visits, just previous to the inauguration, the Doctor proposed to the ex-Sheriff that they should make a trip to Washington together, in time to be present at that august ceremony. Parkins liked the thought as well as his friend, and accordingly, after the necessary preparations, off they started. When they arrived in New York, however, the ex-Sheriff found that important business would detain him in that city for several days, in consequence of which the Doctor was obliged to proceed alone, and in due time arrived at the Capital, and put up at Gadsby's.

On General Jackson's arrival in Washington, the venerable Adams, then in the Presidential chair, with his accustomed frankness, offered him the use of the White House, previous to the inauguration, for the reception of his friends. This offer the General declined; and on Dr. A—'s arrival, he occupied apartments at Gadsby's:—somehow or other the President elect and my friend the Doctor got beneath the same roof.

The next day after his arrival, the Doctor (who, being born and educated a British subject, possessed a remarkable veneration for great men) paid a visit to Gadsby's "big room," and as he entered at one end he discovered, at the opposite extremity, a group of persons, among whom he recognised Jackson, General Van Ness, and two or three other distinguished individuals. They appeared to be examining something in a gilt frame, and as the Doctor approached, he observed it was a skin with the fur on. On his introduction to the General, by a member of the

party with whom he was acquainted, the former turned to him with the frame in his hand, saying,—

"Doctor, we are examining a remarkable natural profile likeness of myself. This, Sir, is the skin of a cat that was killed at Valley Forge."

My friend immediately saw that this was true—at least the profile part. After further comments, by members of the party, the General continued:

"Do you think it possible, Dr A——, that this profile could have been produced by any chemical agency?"

The Doctor took the frame in his hands, and turning it so as to present the felt side of the skin, observed that he did not think this probable, as he might observe that the profile was the same on both sides. [It was a white skin, and the profile was made by a black spot, so that the effect on the felt side was perfectly natural.]

There was a pause for a moment, when the old hero continued, half musingly,

"It is strange! I am told she was a remarkably mischievous cat—remarkably mischievous. By the way, Doctor, does not the cat belong to the tiger family?"

The Doctor nodded affirmative.

"And this cat, too," continued the General, "had a singular habit of jumping upon her master's shoulder every time he came in her vicinity. Do you suppose it possible for electricity to pass from the head of the man to the body of the cat, and so produce a profile?"

The Doctor smiled, but said such a thing would be impossible, as the cat must connive at it herself, for if they would but observe, the profile was on the back, and consequently the animal must have changed sides alternately, to produce the effect so evenly.

That was true, and consequently this position was abandoned, and the party remained as amazed as ever. It was nothing more nor less than a remarkable natural phenomenon.

"Very strange—very strange!" murmured the General, "and she was a mischievous cat, too."

After some further conversation, the Doctor withdrew, but as he was leaving the room, he was accosted by one of two persons whom he had observed standing by the door.

"Sir," said he, "would you be willing to give a certificate to the effect that the profile on that skin was not produced by any chemical agency?"

The Doctor readily consented, when they adjourned to the bar, where the certificate was given, and nothing further was seen of the gentlemen.

After the inauguration, and when all the sights had been seen, Doctor A—— bent his steps homewards. In New York he met Parkins, and related to him the incident of the profile. The Ex-Sheriff's curiosity was excited, and he declared that as soon as possible he would proceed to Washington for the purpose of purchasing the skin. Whether he made the effort or not is uncertain, but at any rate in the course of his London correspondence, he gave a graphic account of the wonder, and, ere long, over came an agent of the British Museum, with authority to purchase at any price. The owners of the skin were found, and after some time spent in bartering, he succeeded in making his purchase at an enormous price, and sailed in triumph home.

And now, reader, if you will visit the British Metropolis, and enter the far-famed Museum, you will find hanging upon its walls a perfect profile likeness, on a cat skin (black on a white ground), of the Hero of New Orleans:

"Major-General Jackson,
Whom the British turned their backs on."

And here is the marrow of our story:

Doctor A—— says it was three years before he was able to account for the profile, and then the result was in this manner: The cat was but a common white cat, with a large black spot on her back. The skin was taken fresh, and put on stretchers, and the prominent features of the profile made to appear—the nose, chin, forehead,

hair, &c. The only feature in the profile not allowable, was a queue, but as this grew on the skin it could not be stretched away. The cat's mischievous pranks, and Valley Forge, are effects merely dragged in for effect.

After this story reaches the British Museum, at what price could that cat-skin be repurchased?

Poetry.

TO PIUS IX.

BENIGN Reformer! Thy sublime career
Has taught the rulers a forgotten art,—
That Truth may palsy valor's arm with fear
And nerve a priest to act a hero's part:
Achieve thy purpose, give a nation birth,
Vain is the Jesuit wile, the Austrian steel;
That sceptre which so long betrayed the earth
In thy pure hands is swayed for human weal:
The world with benedictions breathes thy name,
And hails the Vatican as Freedom's home,
With bloodless triumphs thou hast won a fame
More wide and stainless than the sky of Rome,
Thy effigies a glorious challenge fling
From beauty's robe and wisdom's signet ring!

H. T. T.

THE HUDSON.

I.
OFT have my wand'ring footsteps stray'd,
Fair Hudson, by thy side,
When craggy steep, and road, and glade,
Reflected shone, in light and shade,
Within thy glassy tide.
Oft too, when the thunder cloud
Sent from the hill its summons loud,
And northern winds blew strong—
Beneath the tempest's fierce control
I've seen thy flashing waters roll
In turbid strength along.
I've seen and lov'd thee, mighty flood,
In quiet and unquiet mood,
In darkness and in light;
The links that bind my soul to thee,
Those fairy links, each day shall see
Glow brighter and more bright!
For here, upon my spirit came
A spark of love's eternal flame,
Whilst yet a dreaming boy;
And here my heart first knew the force
Of poetry—that sacred source
Of melancholy joy!

II.
Unlike old Europe's boasted Rhine
Thou meet'st the passing gaze;
No towers of strength above thee shine,—
No legends of romance are thine,—
Nor trace of feudal days.
On thy green banks, no armed knight
Upheld the wrong, or crushed the right,
With heavy brand and spear;
No mitred shavelings ever trod,
Dispensers of the wrath of God,
In gloomy triumph here.
Yet round and near thee, memoirs live,
Stories of olden time, that give
A charm to shore and wood:
Thy tide hath seen, long years ago,
The Indian urge his bark canoe
Intent on deeds of blood.
Where e'en humanity hath dwelt,
There are the human passions felt,
Their bitter fruits well known.
What land now sleeps beneath the sky
That hath not heard the victor's cry.
The vanquished's dying groan!

III.
And thou,—oh, once thine echoes rung
To battle's angry roar—
When on thy hills the bugle sung,
And broad, the red cross barrier, flung
Its shadows on thy shore!
Yes—here the armed spoiler came,
And wrapped thy lovely banks in flame;
But brief his triumph then:—
Like torrents rushing in their might,
Each grassy vale, each mountain height,
Poured forth its swarm of Max.
Strong, in their sinews nerv'd by toil—
Strong, in the love they bore the soil—
In hope of Freedom, strong—
They came—and swept the stranger back
As whirlwinds, in their mighty track,
Sweep autumn leaves along!
They came: And we their children, now
Look upward with unsullied brow,
Tread proudly on the sod—
And cry aloud: "Here dwell the free,
Who ne'er have bent or heart or knee,
To aught but Freedom's God!"

IV.
River, beloved by her whose wand
All loveliness bestows—
Say, hath not Nature's bounteous hand,
With double portion, blessed the land
Through which thy current flows?
Above thee far, the blue hills shroud
Their foreheads in the passing cloud,
And on green banks below,
The scented birch, the aspen, shines
With varying light, and clustering vines
In tangled beauty grow.
Years have gone o'er me, and my heart
Hath seen its early bloom depart,—
Depart, alas, for ever—
Yet still to gaze on thine and thee
A solace to that heart shall be,
My own, beloved river!
Yes, here, whilst standing by thy shore,
Long faded dreams return once more,
And gentle thoughts awaken—
Thoughts, dreams of her who, hand in hand,
Once trod with me thy rippled sand,
The loved one—yet forsaken!

The Fine Arts.

EXHIBITION OF PAINTINGS AT THE BROOKLYN INSTITUTE.

OUR neighbors on the other side of the river have shown, for the last few years, a very commendable spirit in relation to the Fine Arts, and evinced an earnest desire to do something for themselves that may serve to distinguish them as separate and distinct from this great whirlpool of a city that swallows up everything in its vicinity, and incorporates it as part of itself. Laudable as this undertaking is, we fear that Brooklyn is destined to be too much of a suburb ever to assume a distinct and separate being of its own, and success in any such scheme is somewhat doubtful. It is too much dependent upon its great neighbor for its instruction and amusement, and its facilities for obtaining them from the same sources are too easy to render successful any efforts to localize within itself the means of ministering to its wants in these respects. Yet, in spite of this, their endeavors have not slackened, and they still continue what must ever be an unequal contest, with an energy that deserves success, though it may not command it. We accordingly find this is the sixth annual exhibition of the Brooklyn Institute, a society that has been established in a kind of social spirit with a view to furnish to its members and their families a series of lectures, concerts, and exhibitions, by which their knowledge and taste may be advanced, without the necessity of a recourse to their more powerful rival. We so gladly hail any attempt to elevate the public taste by cheap exhibitions of meritorious works of art, that we feel well inclined to give them a helping hand in this particular, and wish them God speed in their undertaking. Art belongs to the people—it is no luxury for the favored few—it is a boon to all mankind, and may be enjoyed, if not possessed, by all who have eyes to see. They who minister to this enjoyment are benefactors of their fellows, and demand our sincere and grateful thanks.

We have gone through the exhibition, not disposed to be over-critical, looking not for faults but for beauties, which, we are glad to say, we have found in great abundance. The collection embraces over a hundred pictures, mostly by our own artists, with many excellent old paintings from the walls of gentlemen of refined taste in art. Huntington, Durand, Doughty, Frothingham, Gray, Duggan, Edwin, White, and others of our well-known artists, have contributed liberally—many of their pictures, it is true, have been exhibited before, but are well worth the trouble of crossing the river to see again. Some of the most noticeable, to which our attention was directed, we will mention here.

Mr. Huntington's "Woman of Samaria," which we saw two years since at the Academy Exhibition, is here, and though not one of his finest works, yet was painted when he bestowed more care and study upon his pictures than he does at present. Even in color, which is his great distinguishing merit, he seems to have fallen off. The effect upon the feelings produced by the subdued harmonious tone of this painting, is far more agreeable than that we experienced while looking at the more positive color and more garish tone of No. 19, "The Sailor's Bride." This latter picture is apparently fresh from the easel, and though in many respects very beautiful, yet time, we think, will improve it. How it came by so inappropriate a name, we cannot guess; it is certainly romantic, but not exactly what we should call it. The face of the girl is beautiful—the form is very badly drawn. No. 117 is one of the best portraits that we have seen by Mr. Huntington.

Mr. Durand has sent one of his studies from nature, which please us far more than his finished works of the last two years. This is a quiet little nook in the wood, with nothing striking about it—nothing that forces itself upon the observation, only a sentiment of repose and solitude pervades the whole scene, that we do not feel until we have looked more than once upon it. We see nothing here of that hot sulphurous mist that so often disfigures his larger works. No. 43 is a portrait by this artist, not equal, as a painting, to what he has done in this branch of art, but excellent as a likeness.

Mr. Frothingham's copies of Stuart's celebrated portraits of Washington and his Lady, in the possession of the Boston Athenæum, are by far the most faithful of the many we have seen. There is in the manner and color of this painter much that is like Stuart—much of the same breadth and fleshiness that we find in his pictures. In fact, we have seen portraits by Mr. F., painted some few years since, that might well have been mistaken for Stuart's. The portraits that he exhibited this year at the Academy had much of this fine manner—those he has sent here are good, but not equal to them.

We are glad to see here the "Artist and Pupil," by Edwin White. It hung for a short time in the Art-Union rooms, but its position was so bad that its chief merits were obscured, and it looked very blank and vacant. Now that it can be seen, we have an opportunity of admiring the many beautiful points about the picture. The background is especially admirable, and is full of atmosphere. The principal figure is well drawn, and more than usual care exhibited in the finishing of the head. In the composition, the figure of the Gladiator, so full of action, to which the artist points, apparently explaining its merits to his pupil, contrasts well with the repose of the rest of the picture. It is a picture that will add much to the increasing reputation of Mr. White. He exhibits also a "Portrait of a Lady," full of excellent color, and the figure well disposed.

Mr. Doughty is well represented in the Exhibition. The "Scene on the Tioga" is, without doubt, the best picture he has painted for many years; it is like some of his early works, which possess a depth and force seldom found in his later productions. The distance is most admirably done; were there as much character and beauty in the foreground, it would be as fine a picture of its class as we have ever seen. He has scattered his reds about too carelessly, destroying much of the merits of the painting.

No. 16, "An English Cottage Scene," is very characteristic of English nature, but the artist's peculiar vices of chalkiness and artificial mannerism are too apparent. He has a very faulty style of tree drawing—the trunks are always too large and white, and the foliage is of the most conventional kind; yet, with all this, he has a deep feeling for the beautiful in nature, and his pictures are always full of it, though translated in such a manner that truth is lost in the version. No. 100, "Recollections of the Juniata," is a striking example of this failing.

Mr. Gray's "Magdalen," that looks so like a fine old Venetian picture, and was exhibited some two years since, we find upon the walls, and a portrait of a Child, by the same artist, in which there is great delicacy both of color and sentiment. This latter is not a striking picture, but grows upon the observer, and loses much of the flatness that seems to be its great fault, on seeing a second or third time.

Among the other paintings in the gallery, we notice "The Printseller" by Spencer, so much in advance of anything he has ever produced, that we felt almost inclined to doubt the correctness of the catalogue; there is much of Elliot's spirit in the head.

Oddie has a large Landscape there, the upper part of which, saving the harsh outline of the mountain, is excellent. The foreground is blank and empty, and the water lacks transparency. Whitehouse's "Descendant of the Royal Stuarts" is apparently the victim of a very long descent; the girl stands about ten heads high, and tapers upwards like a church spire. A very ambitious "Holy Family" by T. G. Gates, commences the catalogue. It is one of the worst of pictures, because to the eye of an observer unaccustomed to see the truth, it may appear to be good. The soft finish, the meretriciousness of expression, the factitious glare, is well adapted to impose upon those who have little real knowledge of art. R. A. Powers has sent a better Landscape than we have seen from his pencil. Beard's "Red Men," Rossiter's "Puritans reading the Bible," and Duggan's "Remorse," that were in the Academy, are here. The two latter we are glad to see again; the "Red Men" we cannot look at with any pleasure.

There are some very fine old pictures in the gallery, among which is an excellent copy of Vandyke's "Virgin and Child." The color in the body of the child is superb. No. 81, "Magdalen and Angel" by Vanderwerf, is a very superior picture; and a picture by Martin Troe, of a Boy with burrs in his Hair, is well worthy of a careful examination. In fine, the exhibition, taken generally, is very good, and does credit to the originators who have, we hear, given much time and labor to the work. We urge them not to slacken their exertions in future years, but to go on with the good work, endeavoring to make each exhibition better than the last.

Extracts from New Books.

[From the "Consular Cities of China." By the Rev. George Smith, M.A. Just published, by the Harpers.]

VISIT TO A BUDDHIST TEMPLE.—In the evening we proceeded, in chairs, about three miles across the fields, and over some of the woods, to a temple called *Seau Teen Tung*. This, and some other temples which we visited, were out-stations of the monastery, with a few resident priests, who had their daily allowance from the mother institution. In one of them we were shown the burial-place of the several abbots of the monastery. In every place which

we visited the priests brought us some peculiar tea grown in the neighborhood, of a rare and expensive kind. They were very anxious to cultivate an acquaintance, and to receive books. The scenery of the country over which we returned to the monastery was very picturesque. Little hills and valleys alternately succeeded each other, with their busy population quietly pursuing, on all sides, their work of daily toil. At every point the inmates of each house, male and female, old and young, ran out to see the strangers, and, in most instances, welcomed us with good-natured smiles. In one place the path was so narrow and precipitous, that one false step of the bearers, or breaking of the bamboo poles which supported our weight, would have thrown us above one hundred feet into the ravine below. We arrived at our lodging in the monastery, having every reason to be pleased with the population and the beautiful scenery of the villages which we had explored.

At an early hour on the next morning, the abbot and the superintending priest from *Seau Teen Tung* returned our call, and sat for some time with us, till they discovered that we had not yet taken our morning meal; when they left with many apologies for their early intrusion. In the course of the day one of the priests, who wore a rosary, which attracted my notice, in a very gracious manner presented it to me. Being afterwards afraid that he should receive no present from me in return, beyond the books I gave him, he paid me a visit at a later hour of the day, and exhibited many symptoms of anxiety. He told my boy that it had cost him \$1000 cash, and had been purchased at Nanking. One little priest, about nine years old, seemed to be a pet of the abbot. He looked forward, with ardent expectation, to the age of sixteen, when he would have his head entirely shaven, and be inducted into the full privileges of the priesthood. He soon began to attach himself to our party; and, as he possessed much vivacity and intelligence, we had him continually with us, deeming it necessary, however, to keep a good watch over any articles of our property within his reach, which he begged for most importunately. Before the sun was high, we took a morning ride in our chairs, to the neighboring village of *Teen-tung-keae*. We sat some time in a school, among master and pupils. The former took from a box a European print, for us to examine, which he seemed highly to prize. The title was "A Battue, or Sport made Easy." In the print was represented the prince-consort of the British queen, sitting in an easy chair, in a drawing-room, taking his aim at some pheasants, partridges, and hares, which in all parts of the room were fastened by strings to the chairs, stools, and legs of tables. Behind his royal highness stood a keeper, with a loaded gun ready to hand to the prince. The scene-sang said that it was an Englishman who had given him the picture he so much valued; and beyond this he had no knowledge of the donor.

A few days after my return from *Teen-tung*, I visited the *Ching-wang meau*, the principal temple of the city, at which the mandarins are accustomed, at the commencement and in the middle of each month, to assemble for a formal invocation of the tutelary divinities of the place. The idols were exquisitely adorned, and the various courts, into which I was successively ushered, gave an air of splendor to these establishments. This temple, as also the two temples of Confucius, to which I thence directed my course, had a large space of ground attached, with ornamental ponds and bridges. A few venerable Chinese were sitting in various parts of these retreats from busy life, apparently absorbed in the recollection of by-gone years. In the lesser temple of Confucius a number of tablets, in trios, were hung round the principal hall, in place of the usual triads of idols. The only image was that of Confucius, which represented the sage as a man of venerable aspect, with white hair and flowing beard, wearing a square, black cap, and holding in his hand a

small wooden tablet, which was inscribed with some mystic characters. A pot of incense-ashes lay before the image, the remains of some recent offering. In the larger of the temples, devoted to the memory of the sage, which was situated near the Salt Gate, no image of any kind was to be seen.

Arts and Sciences.

DISCOVERY OF THE EGGS OF THE MOA, OR GIGANTIC STRUTHIOUS BIRD OF NEW ZEALAND.—Hitherto the bones of a considerable portion of the skeleton are the only vestiges of the colossal ostrich-like birds that once inhabited New Zealand, which have been transmitted to England. An interesting discovery has recently been made by Mr. Walter Mantell, of Wellington. In an exploring tour for the purpose of collecting remains of these enormous birds, Mr. Mantell found, imbedded with the bones in several places, fragments of egg-shells, of a size and structure that prove them to have belonged to some of the largest species of the Dinornis, as Professor Owen has named the *Moa* of the New Zealanders. The specimens which Mr. Mantell has sent to his father, Dr. Mantell, are fragments of several eggs, presenting a general resemblance to the shell of the ostrich, but differing in the markings on the external surface; which, in these fossil egg-shells, are short, irregular, linear grooves, and not small circular pits, as in the ostrich; from the slight concavity even of the largest fragments, it is obvious that they belonged to eggs of considerable magnitude. Specimens have been presented to Prof. Owen for examination.—*London Literary Gazette*.

PHOSPHORESCENCE ON THE RIVER WYE.—A correspondent of the Monmouthshire Beacon, says:—"Having had occasion last month to return to Tintern from the New Passage after nightfall in a boat, I was much surprised and pleased at the luminosity of the River Wye, in certain parts of the tideway, where the water is permanently oozy and thick. The phenomenon, it is well known, is common at sea, and in all salt water estuaries. The curiosity is, that it should be discovered in the Wye. The lowness of the fresh water currents, and the proportionate influence of the tides (carrying the blackish and muddy contributions of the adjacent channel further than customary during neaps) will account for the fact that the luminosity extended on several occasions this summer to that part of the river contiguous to the abbey. An old inhabitant of a cottage near the celebrated ruins went with her mop one dark night through the Water-gate, to perform a very homely task, not with the remotest idea of making a pyrotechnic display, but to her extreme surprise, what would have been a whirl of dirty drippings at any other time, was converted into a very respectable "wheel." These coruscations are not universal in the Wye, nor, indeed, even at sea; on the contrary, they occur in sheets or shoals; a ship may sail many a knot without eliciting a spark of phosphorescence, and then suddenly immerse upon a tract rendered wonderfully grand and interesting in the possession of this beautiful phenomenon. I counted two such fields or shoals in my passage from Chepstow to the Livox Weir, above which the admixture of fresh water was too great to admit of the property being displayed. It is generally believed that the luminosity is attributable to the multitudes of minute medusæ, hydræ, and incipient forms of marine molluscs that undergo transformations, some of them, from being free rangers of the deep, becoming ultimately fixtures for life to the rocks and fuci.—*London Atlas*.

ROMAN ANTIQUITIES.—Five beautiful spear-heads of brass have been found near Whittingham, Northumberland; which, according to the description, must be handsome specimens of Roman arms. They are in the possession of the Hon. H. T. Liddell, having been discovered on the property of his father, Lord Ravensworth.

HISTORICAL DISCUSSION.

WE have received the following communication from Mr. Headley. A great historian of the day, Guizot, thanked his reviewer for pointing out his errors, and expressed the most lively satisfaction at having an opportunity to improve the future editions of his book from his critic's suggestive promptings. A Reviewer, in turn, who has the truth of history at heart, will gladly receive any similar aid from an historian. The author of "Washington and his Generals" is, therefore, right in thinking that we wish the facts of History to stand correct in the "Literary World," nor was any appeal necessary to our sense of justice, to make us welcome the correction of any fact, historical or otherwise, which chanced to be misstated in this journal.

We must, however, invite our readers to a comparison of Mr. H.'s letter with the criticisms to which it has reference; suggesting at the same time the propriety of relying in such matters upon official documents and original narratives rather than upon the estimates of a national foe fresh from the field of struggle, or the uncertain conclusions of a Foreign Historian who, besides the errors of translation and re-translation, is at best but a second-hand reporter of events.

The reader who wishes to pursue the subject may consult St. Clair's Narrative with the accompanying documents. With regard to the name by which the southern part of Lake Champlain was known, see Pownall's map of those waters (1762) or that of Medcalf in Burgoyne's Expedition. The nomenclature in these authorities seems to us the more significant from the fact, that by English writers the term "Creek" is rarely used, as now in this country, for any "big brook," but applied in its proper sense, to inlets of lakes, arms of the sea, &c. If these authorities did not apply the word in its proper, general sense, but used it with an arbitrary reference, it seems to establish the historical designation of the waters, known to them as Wood Creek. A society of antiquarians might, however, pronounce differently.

New York, Nov. 16.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE LITERARY WORLD.

SIR:—In the Literary World of Nov. 13, you reproduce an article on my "Washington and his Generals," from your paper of July 10th, and a portion of another of Oct. 23d, on the ground that it is "due to Mr. Headley." I preferred not to have noticed these criticisms, but their reproduction, and, at this particular juncture, seems to demand a reply. The matter is again referred to in the last Number, under the head of "Facts of History." As it is to be supposed that you wish the "facts of history" to stand correct in the Literary World, I presume you will regard it as still more "due" to me to allow me to give the authority for "the facts" I stated.

The attack opens with the following charge:

"His knowledge of his subject is often very superficial, and evidently hastily acquired, to serve a present purpose, from the most common and least reliable sources."

The article on St. Clair is chosen as an illustration, and the following extract from my work, given as proof:—

"Nothing is known of his boyhood; but when twenty-one years of age he came to this country with Admiral Boscawen, and received an ensign's commission in the British army then operating against the French in Canada. 'He himself carried a banner in this battle' [on the plains of Abraham]."

The writer states "here is proof enough that very little is known of the early life of St. Clair by the author of Washington and his Generals; and the question instantly arises has he any excuse for such short comings, when there were ample authorities that could have been consulted."

Yet with all this writer's research, he adds not a single fact except that St. Clair was a good scholar, and practised physic for a short time. He thus *proves* conclusively the assertion "that very little is known of the early life of St. Clair." The incidents of his *after* career in this country would all have been given if he had continued the extract from my book, instead of repeating, as he did, what it contained as his own. With regard to the rank he obtained on joining the English army, it is a matter of small moment, but it is stated in the American Military Biography, published by Mr. Swords, now of the firm of Stanford & Swords, page 275, that "he entered the royal army, and was commissioned as ensign," and again that "he was in the army of General Wolfe, and was in the battle carrying a pair of colors."

The following extract from my book is made the basis of the next charge. It refers to the evacuation of Ticonderoga:—

"This was followed by a most disorderly retreat. A house on Mount Independence, which had been carelessly set on fire, revealed their flight to the British, and a hot pursuit was immediately commenced. Two hundred boats, and five armed galleys carried the stores, baggage, artillery, a derrick, which were hurried up Wood Creek. The barriers which had been erected at the mouth of the stream, it was supposed would arrest the progress of the British vessels for some time.

The long procession of boats began by moonlight to wind up Wood Creek. All night long, with the still shadows of the boundless forest darkening the stream, they toiled on, and when the unclouded sun burst in splendor over the tree tops, the life and drum awoke the morning echoes with their stirring notes, and mirth and gaiety filled the day. But they had scarcely reached Skeenesborough when the thunder of cannon and skipping of balls, in their midst, announced, to their astonishment, the approach of the enemy. Through those formidable timbers of the mouth of the creek, the British fleet had swept as if they had been threads of gossamer, and passed vigorously in pursuit."

Of this the writer thus speaks:—

"The spirit of this description must not dull our perception to the defects of the passage as a piece of historic writing. These 'two hundred boats' must have been curiously constructed to have been rowed through all these 'still shadows of the boundless forest,' before morning, up a stream of which the entrance is from twenty to thirty miles distant from the fort they left at midnight. And then, to have glided so long over the smooth waters of Wood Creek, before reaching Skeenesborough. Why, is not Mr. Headley as inaccurate here in geography as he is in history? He seems never to have dreamed that Skeenesborough is the place now called Whitehall—that it is in the junction of Wood Creek with the lake—that is at the 'head of navigation'—and that even if nature had not placed at the mouth of the creek, barriers as impassable as Niagara, it is so shallow, rapid, and turbulent a stream, that even a skiff could not live in any part of it for a moment. The whole story, if not drawn from the author's fancy, we have to think will rest hereafter solely upon his glowing periods."

Now, here, in the first place, I am charged with ignorance of geography in placing Wood Creek near Ticonderoga, instead of Whitehall, and of making it a navigable instead of an unnavigable stream. But Neilson, who was brought up on the ground of Saratoga, says, in his "Burgoyne's Campaigns," page 27:—

"The passage at Ticonderoga being cleared, the ships of Burgoyne immediately entered Wood Creek and proceeded with extreme rapidity in search of the Americans."

Again, Botta, in his "History of the American Revolution," in speaking of the same affair, says:—

"The general rendezvous was appointed at Skeenesborough (now Whitehall), and the batteaux, proceeding under cover of the galleys, up Wood Creek, &c."—(p. 46.)

And again, the same writer says:—

"The passage being thus cleared (referring to the boom and bridge), the ships of Burgoyne immediately entered Wood Creek."

The truth of the matter is, the writer was unfortunately ignorant of the fact that the whole narrow inlet at the head of Lake Champlain was formerly called *Wood Creek*. It had also other names, such as South river and South bay, but Wood Creek was the most common. At the present time this name applies only to the small stream which empties into this inlet (now considered a part of the lake), at Whitehall. The narrative as it stands in my book precludes all comparison from change of names.

The second charge implied in the above quo-

tation, is, that I have "drawn upon my fancy" in the description. Yet Dr. Thatcher who belonged to the army of St. Clair, and accompanied the boats in their flight up Wood Creek, says in his *Military Journal*, page 84: "Our fleet consisted of five armed galleys, 200 batteaux and boats, deeply laden with cannon, tents, provisions, invalids, and women. We were accompanied by 600 men commanded by Colonel Long of New Hampshire. The night was moonlight and pleasant—the sun burst forth in the morning with uncommon lustre—the day was fine, the water's surface serene and unruffled. The shore on each side exhibited a variegated view of huge rocks, caverns, and cliffs, and the whole was bounded by a thick impenetrable wilderness. My pen would fail in the attempt to describe a scene so enchantingly sublime. The occasion was peculiarly interesting—one could but look back with regret and forward with apprehension. The drum and fife afforded us a favorite music. Among the hospital stores, we found many dozen of choice wine, and we cheered our hearts with the nectarous contents."

Not on my "glowing periods," but on the testimony of unimpeachable authority and an eye witness, rests this description. The next error is thus pointed out:—

"In the meantime," says Mr. Headley—"Frazer pressed after the army, which—St. Clair commanding the van, and Francis and Seth Warner the rear guard—was streaming through the forest towards Hubbardton. . . . Counting the numbers engaged, it [the battle of Hubbardton] was one of the most hotly contested and bloody combats of the revolution. . . . for the killed, wounded, prisoners, and missing, amounted to near a thousand men."

"Now, 'the army' did not go near Hubbardton. Colonel Seth Warner, with about three hundred 'Green Mountain Boys,' was overtaken and defeated in that town, with a loss of some sixty men, killed and captured."

Now it so happens, that I do not state in my account that the army went to Hubbardton. I say, "it streamed through the forest towards Hubbardton," nor do I use the phrase "battle of Hubbardton"—it is not in the book. The writer makes me assert facts I never stated, and then contradicts them. Still if I had said so, it would have been true. Gordon, in his *History of the American Revolution*, says—vol. ii., page 452—"Upon the army arriving at Hubbardton, they were halted for near two hours." Wilkinson, in his *Memoirs*, says—"The main body of the troops returned by an unfinished road through the wilderness, twenty-four miles to Hubbardton;" and Thatcher, page 85, that "General St. Clair, with his main army from Ticonderoga, took a circuitous route through the woods to Hubbardton." This critic says: "now the army did not go near Hubbardton;" and further, that but 300 were in the battle, and but "sixty men killed and captured" in all. American writers differ respecting the amount of our loss. Wilkinson makes it over two hundred; Neilson and others over three hundred. The Americans evidently were unable to tell accurately the loss on their side, for a large number were supposed to have dispersed. But the British, who remained masters of the field and of the prisoners, ought to have known. Burgoyne, page 33d of Appendix to his work, says—"They fled on all sides, leaving dead upon the field Colonel Francis, and many other officers, and upwards of two hundred men. About six hundred were wounded, most of whom perished in the woods, attempting to get off, and one colonel, seven captains, ten subalterns, and two hundred and ten men were made prisoners." This makes the loss over a thousand. Stedman, page 325, puts it even higher. I was very careful in making out the calculation, yet was forced, by comparing these statements with the muster-roll of the army before and after the battle, to say that our loss amounted "to near a thousand men."

Botta, a neutral, and hence an important historian, came to the same conclusion, for he says Vol. I., page 458. "The Americans overpowered by numbers fled on all sides, leaving their brave commander with many other officers and two hundred soldiers dead on the field. About

the same number, besides Colonel Hale and seventeen officers of inferior rank, were made prisoners. Above six hundred were supposed to be wounded, many of whom, deprived of all succor, perished in the woods." To avoid, however, all cavil, I said "killed, wounded, and missing." Of this there never before to my knowledge was a doubt expressed. The story I relate of Mr. Sargent, Adjutant General to St. Clair, is dismissed with a sneer as unworthy of credit. A gentleman of eminence and well-known in New York, and whose paper on St. Clair, was read last winter before the Historical Society, and by it ordered to be printed, was my authority. In answer to an inquiry respecting the anecdote, he says: "It came to me from a venerable relative, now no more, who had it from Sargent, his intimate personal friend. Of its truth I never had and have not now the slightest shadow of a doubt. I noticed at the time the denial of its accuracy in the *Literary World*. It is possible that my relative may have been inaccurate as to the place (Mount Vernon); as to the facts, I have, as I said before, not the shadow of a doubt of their accuracy. Sargent and his friend belonged to a class of men, now not so numerous as formerly, to whom the shadow of dishonor never attached." I have no doubt of its correctness.

With regard to the last extract—the poverty of St. Clair is too well known to require authority—the confusion of names may have misled writers as to the place of his death. I found in the biography of him in the National Portrait Gallery, the following statement: "He died at Laurel Hill, near Philadelphia, August 31, 1818, in the 84th year of his age"—also in the *American Biographical Dictionary* of Rev. Dr. Allen, President of Bowdoin College, the statement, "he died at Laurel Hill, Pennsylvania, August 31st, 1818, aged 84 years." I naturally looked no further. As an author, I of course am subject to criticism. It has been my purpose not to reply to it; nor should I now, had not the reproduction of these in the *Literary World*, at the present time and with so much authority, made silence on my part equivalent to a confession of their correctness. Many papers in various parts of the country would so consider it, and a work that has caused me great labor and research, be looked upon by some with distrust.

In conclusion, in reply to the intimation that nothing but "ingenious malignity or perverse stupidity" could have inferred intentional injustice or party feeling in your contributors, let me call your attention to the following extract from the review in the *Literary World*, of October 23, of Carey & Hart's book. In comparing the two works, the writer says:

"The first distinction between 'Washington and his Generals by J. T. Headley' and 'Washington and the Generals of the Revolution,' is the obvious one in regard to the scope of the respective works. The former contains sketches of sixteen officers—the latter of sixty-four generals—comprising nearly, if not quite all, who held commissions in our army."

Here statistics are given, numbers specified, and placed in italics. After careful counting, my work is declared to contain but sixteen sketches, while the other embraces sixty-four. Yet the truth is, there are in my book sketches of twenty-nine major-generals alone, to say nothing of other "officers," long and short, making the number in all over forty. Now, was this miscount unintentional, and ought I so to have regarded it?

Respectfully yours, J. T. HEADLEY.

NOTE.—The error which Mr. Headley points out in the concluding paragraphs of the above communication, arose from a simple act of carelessness or stupidity in counting his lists of illustrated Lives, which are eight in each volume, and which, in one volume before us, are given on a different page from that on which his Table of Contents is placed.

We need hardly say that we would cheerfully have corrected this blunder had our attention been called to it by the author at the time; nor assure our readers, that our editorial nodding (unlike Lord Burleigh's nod in the play) had no "deep meaning under it."—Ed. Lit. World.

Glimpses of Books.

A RARE book, called the *Index Sanitatis*, written by a Doctor of Medicine, named Begardi, and published at Worms in 1539, contains a passage in which mention is made of a famous adept in occult science, named Faust. Many, it seems, complained that they were cheated by this notable necromancer, but of his destruction of the devil Begardi evidently knows nothing. Far more explicit is a book by John Gast, a Protestant clergyman, *Convivales Sermones*, in which, certainly as early as 1548, there are two distinct stories about Faust, a translation of one of which we give from the London Atlas:—

"OF THE NECROMANCER FAUST.—Once he put up at a rich convent to pass the night there. A brother sets before him common, weak, not very agreeable wine. Faust asks him to give him out of another cask better wine, such as he was in the habit of giving to persons of rank. The brother said, 'I have not the keys. The prior is asleep, and I dare not awake him.' Faust replies, 'The keys lie in that corner; take them, open the cask on the left, and bring me a draught.' The brother refuses; he has no permission from the prior to give other wine to the guests. When Faust hears this, he says, 'In a short time thou wilt see wonders, thou inhospitable brother!' Early in the morning he departed full of bitterness, without taking leave, and sent into the convent a raging devil, which made a noise day and night, and set all in commotion, both in the church and in the rooms of the monks, so that whatever they did they could get no rest. At last they held a consultation whether they should leave the convent or utterly destroy it. They, therefore, told their misfortune to the Count Palatine. He took the convent under his own protection by expelling the monks, to whom he yearly allowed what was necessary, keeping the rest for himself. Some maintain that, even now, if monks enter the convent, such a tumult arises that the residents have no rest. Such things can the devil bring about."

ORIGIN OF THE PICKWICK PAPERS.—In the course of the last dozen years, says Mr. Dickens in the preface to the new edition of his works, I have seen various accounts of the origin of these *Pickwick Papers*; which have, at all events, possessed—for me—the charm of perfect novelty. As I may infer, from the occasional appearance of such histories, that my readers have an interest in the matter, I will relate how they came into existence. I was a young man of three-and-twenty, when the present publishers, attracted by some pieces I was at that time writing in the *Morning Chronicle* newspaper (of which one series had lately been collected and published in two volumes, illustrated by my esteemed friend Mr. George Cruikshank), waited upon me to propose a something that should be published in shilling numbers—then only known to me, or I believe, to anybody else, by a dim recollection of certain interminable novels in that form, which used, some five-and-twenty years ago, to be carried about the country by pedlars, and over some of which I remember to have shed innumerable tears, before I served my apprenticeship to life. When I opened my door in Furnival's Inn, to the managing partner who represented the firm, I recognised in him the person from whose hands I had bought, two or three years previously, and whom I had never seen before or since, my first copy of the magazine in which my first effusion—dropped stealthily one evening at twilight, with fear and trembling, into a dark office, up a dark court, in Fleet street—appeared in all the glory of print; on which occasion by-the-by—how well I recollect it!—I walked down to Westminster Hall, and turned into it for half an hour, because my eyes were so dimmed with joy and pride, that they could not bear the street, and were not fit

to be seen there. I told my visitor of the coincidence, which we both hailed as a good omen; and so fell to business. The idea propounded to me was that the monthly something should be a vehicle for certain plates to be executed by Mr. Seymour, and there was a notion, either on the part of that admirable humorous artist, or of my visitor (I forget which), that a "Nimrod Club," the members of which were to go out shooting, fishing, and so forth, and getting themselves into difficulties through their want of dexterity, would be the best means of introducing these. I objected, on consideration, that although born and partly bred in the country I was no great sportsman, except in regard of all kinds of locomotion; that the idea was not novel, and had been already much used; that it would be infinitely better for the plates to arise naturally out of the text; and that I should like to take my own way, with a freer range of English scenes and people, and was afraid I should ultimately do so in any case, whatever course I might prescribe to myself at starting. My views being deferred to, I thought of Mr. Pickwick, and wrote the first number; from the proof sheets of which Mr. Seymour made his drawing of the club, and that happy portrait of its founder, by which he is always recognised, and which may be said to have made him a reality. I connected Mr. Pickwick with a club, because of the original suggestion, and I put in Mr. Winkle expressly for the use of Mr. Seymour. We started with a number of twenty-four pages instead of thirty-two, and four illustrations in lieu of a couple. Mr. Seymour's sudden and lamented death before the second number was published brought about a quick decision upon a point already in agitation; the number became one of thirty-two pages with two illustrations, and remained so to the end. My friends told me it was a low, cheap form of publication, by which I should ruin all my rising hopes; and how right my friends turned out to be, everybody now knows. "Boz," my signature in the *Morning Chronicle*, appended to the monthly cover of this book, and retained long afterwards, was the nickname of my pet child, a younger brother, whom I had dubbed Moses, in honor of the Vicar of Wakefield; which being facetiously pronounced through the nose, became Boses, and being shortened, became Boz. "Boz" was a very familiar household word to me long before I was an author, and so I came to adopt it.

SHELLEY IN BOYHOOD.—Shelley was at this time tall for his age, slightly and delicately built, and rather narrow-chested, with a complexion fair and ruddy, a face rather long than oval. His features, not regularly handsome, were set off by a profusion of silky brown hair, that curled naturally. The expression of countenance was one of exceeding sweetness and innocence. His blue eyes were very large and prominent, considered by phrenologists to indicate a great aptitude for verbal memory. They were at times, when he was abstracted, as he often was in contemplation, dull, and, as it were, insensible to external objects; at others, they flashed with the fire of intelligence. His voice was soft and low, but broken in its tones—when anything much interested him, harsh and immodulated; and this peculiarity he never lost. As is recorded of Thomson, he was naturally calm; but when he heard of or read of some flagrant act of injustice, oppression, or cruelty, then indeed the sharpest marks of horror and indignation were visible in his countenance.—*Medwin*.

SHELLEY READING.—Shelley was an indefatigable student, frequently devoting to his books ten or twelve hours of the day and part of the night. The absorption of his ideas by reading was become in him a curious phenomenon. He took in seven or eight lines at a glance, and his mind seized the sense with a velocity equal to the twinkling of an eye. Often would a single word enable him at once to comprehend the meaning of the sentence. His memory was prodigious. He with the same fidelity assimilated,

to use a medical term for digestion, the ideas acquired by reading and those which he derived from reflection or conversation. In short, he possessed the memory of places, words, things, and figures. Not only did he call up objects at will, but revived them in the mind, in the same situations, and with the lights and colors in which they had appeared to him at particular moments. He collected not only the gist of the thoughts in the book wherefrom they were taken, but even the disposition of his soul at the time. Thus, by an unheard-of faculty and privilege, he could retrace the progress and the whole course of his imagination, from the most anciently sketched idea down to its last development.—*Medwin*.

EVERY MAN HIS OWN DOUBLE.—Discussing the question (which has more purpose in it than shows itself to the light) whether a man and himself be two, our erudite Doctor quotes the eccentric Duchess of Newcastle's dogma, that one mind cannot perceive another—that is, that it is impossible for one person to thoroughly understand the nature of another—by reason of the mixture of mind and matter; and then goes on to say:—

"So far however the beautiful and fanciful as well as fantastic Duchess is right, that the more congenial the disposition of two persons who stand upon the same intellectual level, the better they understand each other. The lower any one is sunk in animal life the less is he capable of appreciating the motives and views of those who have cultivated the better part of their nature."

Here the whole philosophy of the question is at once resolved into sympathy, or equality of intellectual power. But the blending of two characters in one remains yet to be investigated:—

"It is a maxim of Bayle's, 'qu'il n'y a point de grand esprit dans le caractère duquel il n'entre un peu de folie.' And he named Diogenes as one proof of this. Think indeed somewhat more than a little upon the words folly and philosophy, and if you can see any way into a mist, or a stone wall, you will perceive that the same radicals are found in both."

The Marquis de Custine affords another illustration:—

"The Marquis de Custine, in a book which in all its parts, wise or foolish, strikingly characterizes its author, describes himself thus:—'J'ai un mélange de gravité et de légèreté qui m'empêchera de devenir autre chose qu'un vieil enfant bien triste. Si je suis destiné à éprouver de grands malheurs, j'aurai l'occasion de remercier Dieu de m'avoir fait naître avec cette disposition à la fois sérieuse et frivole; le sérieux m'aidera à me passer du monde—l'enfance à supporter le douleur. C'est quoi il réussit mieux que la raison.'"

Adam Littleton is cited in evidence to the same point, confirmed by the confession of the Doctor to the intimate union in himself of the *gravité* and the *légèreté*:—

"In the passage quoted from Adam Littleton in the preceding chapter, that good old divine inquired whether a man and himself were two. A Moorish prince in the most extravagant of Dryden's extravagant tragedies (they do not deserve to be called romantic), agrees with him, and exclaims to his confidential friend,

'Assist me, Zulema, if thou wouldst be
The friend thou seem'st, assist me against me.'"

"Machiavel says of Cosmo de Medici that whoever considered his gravity and his levity, might say there were two distinct persons in him."

But Adam Littleton goes a little further, and with some ingenuity contends for the presence of three selves in one individual:—

"In another sermon Adam Littleton says that 'every man is made of three Egos, and has three Selves in him; and that this 'appears in the reflection of Conscience upon actions of a dubious nature; whilst one Self accuses, another Self defends, and the third Self passes judgment upon what has been so done by the man.' This

he adduced as among various 'mean and unworthy comparisons, whereby to show that though the mysterious doctrine of the Trinity' far exceeds our reason, there want not natural instances to illustrate it. But, he adds most properly, that we should neither 'say nor think aught of God in this kind,' without a preface of reverence and asking pardon; 'for it is sufficient for us and most suitable to the mystery, so to conceive, so to discourse of God, as He himself has been pleased to make himself known to us in his Word.'

"If all theologians had been as wise, as humble, and as devout as Adam Littleton, from how many heresies and evils might Christendom have been spared."—*Review of the Doctor in the London Atlas*.

AN OLD MONKISH STORY.—There was an Abbot of S. Salvador de Villar who lived in times when piety flourished, and Saints on earth enjoyed a visible communion with heaven. This holy man used in the intervals of his liturgical duties to recreate himself by walking in a pine forest near his monastery, employing his thoughts the while in divine meditations. One day when thus engaged during his customary walk, a bird in size and appearance resembling a blackbird alighted before him on one of the trees, and began so sweet a song, that in the delight of listening the good Abbot lost all sense of time and place, and all earthly things, remaining motionless and in ecstasy. He returned not to the convent at his accustomed hour, and the monks supposed that he had withdrawn to some secret solitude; and would resume his office when his intended devotion there should have been completed. So long a time elapsed without his re-appearance that it was necessary to appoint a substitute for him *pro tempore*; his disappearance and the forms observed upon this occasion being duly registered. Seventy years passed by, during all which time no one who entered the pine forest ever lighted upon the Abbot, nor did he think of anything but the bird before him, nor hear anything but the song which filled his soul with contentment, nor eat, nor drink, nor sleep, nor feel either want, or wearisomeness, or exhaustion. The bird at length ceased to sing and took flight; and the Abbot then, as if he had remained there only a few minutes, returned to the monastery. He marvelled as he approached at certain alterations about the place, and still more when, upon entering the house, he knew none of the brethren whom he saw, nor did any one appear to know him. The matter was soon explained, his name being well known, and the manner of his disappearance matter of tradition as well as record: miracles were not so uncommon then as to render any proof of identity necessary, and they proposed to reinstate him in his office. But the holy man was not to remain a sojourner upon earth: so he exhorted them to live in peace with one another, and in the fear of God, and in the strict observance of their rule, and to let him end his days in quietness; and in a few days, even as he expected, it came to pass, and he fell asleep in the Lord.—*The Doctor*, vol. vii.

ENGLISH SHIPS IN EDWARD THIRD'S TIME. "The galley 'La Phelipe,' probably the Philippa, and named after the Queen, had only one mast, which cost 10*l.*; and one yard, which cost 3*l.* One 'lof' and one bowsprit cost 2*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* Her cordage included shrouds, 'hevedropes,' 'back-stays,' 'stays,' 'uptyes,' 'running-tyes,' 'crane-line,' 'hawesers,' 'cables,' 'winding-ropes,' 'swing-ropes,' 'seasings,' 'truss-ropes,' 'tow-rope,' 'veering-ropes,' 'boy-ropes,' 'sheets,' 'yard-ropes,' 'bow-lines,' and a 'sounding-line.' She had one large anchor weighing 1,100*l* pounds of Spanish iron, and five smaller anchors; which cost altogether 23*l.* 10*s.* 3*d.* Her sail contained 640 ells, which was dyed red. To this sail 'wynewews' were attached, which were dyed black, and contained 220 ells of cloth; and the sail had a 'leechrope,' a 'bolt-rope,' eight 'reef-ropes,' and 'ribondes.' Sixty ells of

canvas were purchased to double the sail, which was made under the superintendence of the master and constable of the galley; and it was sewn by twenty-four women. She had twenty-four 'skalters,' eighty oars, and two 'rafters,' and an entire covering of cloth, called a 'pannel,' in which were 376 ells, and was dyed red. Two 'leopards' (lions of England) adorned the galley, being placed on the 'stamps,'—probably on two posts near the stern. Instead of a pump, water was ejected from the galley by a 'winding-ballies,' into which the water was put by two 'spoujours.' The vessel was 'purified' or cleansed by twenty-four tunnels, or 'tynels.' Her sides were greased, and her bottom paid with a mixture of pitch, tar, oil, and rosin. A piece of timber for her 'rother,' or rudder, cost 2s.; and 200 pounds of Spanish iron was bought 'to make two chains for her rudder'; which prove that she had only one rudder, and that it must have been fixed to her stern. She was caulked with 'mosso,' possibly moss and hair. The artificers employed in building this galley were her master-carpenter, who was paid 6d. a day; other carpenters, who received 5d.; clinkerers, at 4d.; holderers, at 3d.; and servants or attendants on these workmen, at 2½d. a day.—*Sir Harris Nicolas' History of the Royal Navy.*

THE MARINER'S COMPASS.—Though nowhere mentioned by its modern name, there are undoubtedly a few notices of the compass in the naval accounts of Edward the Third's reign. The loadstone was then termed the "sailstone," or "adamante," and the compass itself "sailing needles and dial." In 1345 a "sailing-piere," or stone, was supplied to the "Plenty," of Hull; and in June, 1338, "two sailing needles and a dial" formed part of the stores of the barge "Mary" of the Tower. But the most remarkable entries are in the accounts of the clerk of the King's ship the "George," in 1345. After stating that he had purchased at Sluys, in Flanders, sixteen "horologes," probably hour-glasses, and paid for repairing "diverse instruments pertaining to a ship," it is said that he had spent six shillings for "twelve stones called adamants, called sail-stones."—*Id.*

SHELLEY'S LIBRARY IN ITALY.—Shelley's library was a very limited one. He used to say that a good library consisted not of many books, but a few chosen ones; and asking him what he considered such, he said, "I'll give you my list—catalogue it can't be called: the Greek Plays, Plato, Lord Bacon's Works, Shakspeare, the Old Dramatists, Milton, Goethe and Schiller, Dante, Petrarch and Boccaccio, and Machiavelli and Guicciardini,—not forgetting Calderon; and last, yet first, the Bible." I do not mean that this was all his collection. He had read few English works of the day; scarcely a novel, except Walter Scott's, for whose genius he had sovereign respect, and Anastasius, by which he thought Lord Byron profited in his *Don Juan*; and the *Promessi Sposi*. In speaking of Hope and Manzoni, he said, "that one good novel was enough for any man to write, and thought both judicious in not risking their fame by a second attempt."—*Medwin.*

HOWIT'S JOURNAL.—(From Berford & Co., Astor House.)—The last number received is enlivened with some capital Wood Engravings. We quote the following communication from the last page as well worthy of attention:—

"HINTS FOR A COPYRIGHT BILL, EMBRACING THE MUTUAL INTERESTS OF AUTHORS AND PUBLIC.—*Bristol, September 10.*—Sir,—Allow me to ask if you have ever given the Copyright Laws your serious consideration? For some few years past I have come to the conclusion that we are altogether wrong, and that both authors and the public are losing.

"1st. The author has an equitable claim to a perpetual beneficial interest in his works.

"2d. The public interest requires that they should have the benefit of *free competition*.

"Now, to reconcile this, I would allow any work to be printed by anybody, in *any size or style, and at any price, and in any numbers*, provided that the publisher gave notice to Stationers' Hall, and deposited at the time of such notice—per cent. on the *selling price* of the whole edition for the author; the title-page to bear the number printed. One effect of this would be to make the *retail* trade honest. There would be less nominal profit, but there would be no taking off ten or fifteen per cent. over the counter. Publishers might quarrel and compete, but the author would quietly receive his toll to begin with, his fair and honest share, and the public would be well served.

"You may ask, 'How would authors come before the public?' Why, in this way. Journals would be started to receive the first editions of our authors, and a great sale they would naturally have; and what an advantage it would be for an author to get a copy in print for supervision and revise! He would naturally request publishers to wait for his emendations. Cheating could not be practised—it should be a felony; and it would be so open to printers and binders, that no one could venture on it. Every printer might be required to file the certificate of the payment, and to be finable for working without it.

"I wish you would turn these few hints over in your mind, and, if you approve them, work them up in your own way.

"I am, very respectfully, your obliged,

"J. W.

"WILLIAM HOWITT, ESQ."

THE NEW ROTARY-HEEL BOOT.—Mr. Gray, bootmaker, of New Oxford Street, has discovered a means of relieving physical pain, in an improvement, ingenious if not very important, applied to the heel of the boot. A limping gait, or sprained ankle, has been sometimes the consequence of the high heel of the boot wearing away on one side by uneven treading, its repairs being neglected; the uneasiness of locomotion under such circumstances all must have felt, except, perhaps, the very, very rich, who haven't feelings like ordinary people. Mr. Gray's invention imparts a rotary motion to this part of the boot, so that when the boot is worn down unevenly, it can (being movable) be easily twisted round, and the other side offered to wear and tear, thus producing another level or equal surface. The patent rotary-heel boot is not more expensive than the ordinary Wellington with the fixed heel.—*Douglas Jerrold.*

CHEMICAL THEORY OF SWEDENBORG.—Unlike the chemists of our day, he made no doubt that chemistry in its inmost bosom was amenable to the laws of mechanics, and that there was nothing necessarily mysterious in it—nothing occult,—nothing but a peculiar portion of the ubiquitous clockwork of space and time. His theory was this—that roundness is the form adapted to motion; that the particles of fluids, and specifically of water, are round hollow spherules, with a subtle matter, identical with ether or caloric, in their interiors and interstices; that the crust, or crustal portion, of each particle, is itself formed of lesser particles, and these again of lesser, and so forth; water being in this way the sixth dimension, or the result of the sixth grouping of the particles; that the interstices of the fluids furnish the original mound of the solids; and the rows of the crustal particles, forced off one by one by various agencies, furnish the matter of the same; that after solid particles are thus cast in their appropriate moulds, their fracture, aggregation, the filling in of their pores and interstices by lesser particles, and a number of other and accidental conditions, provide the units of the multiform substances of which the mineral system is composed. According to this theory, then, there is but one substance in the world, namely, the first;

the difference of things is difference of form; there are no positive, but only relative atoms; no metaphysical, but only real elements; moreover, the heights of chemical doctrine can be scaled by rational induction alone, planted on the basis of analysis, synthesis, and observation. The Newton of chemistry has not yet arisen, but when he does appear, who but Swedenborg shall be recognised as its Copernicus?—*Garth Wilkinson.*

FIRST USE OF CANNON ON SHIP BOARD.—It is manifest from these records that cannon formed part of the armament of many ships as early as, probably a few years before, 1338: that about 1372, guns and gunpowder were commonly used; that some guns were made of iron, some of brass, and others of copper; that there was a kind of handgun as well as large cannon; and that gunpowder was formed of the same elements, and made in nearly the same manner as at present.

Among the stores of the hulk "Christopher of the Tower," in June, 1338, were three iron cannon with five chambers, a handgun, some article of iron, of which the name is obliterated, for the cannon, and three old stone-bags; no doubt bags to hold shot. The barge called the "Mary of the Tower," had an iron cannon with two chambers, and another of brass with one chamber; and a ship called a "carak" had one cannon. Two iron cannons, "without stuff," are also mentioned; and in the King's private wardrobe were two great guns of copper. Guns had, in some instances, handles; for among the King's expenses between 1372 and 1374, were payments for "helvyng" eight guns. There are also numerous entries in the naval accounts for those years relating to gunpowder and shot for guns, of which the following are the most material:—a small barrel of gunpowder, a quarter full; one hundred and eighty-four pounds of powder for guns, made from one hundred and thirty-five pounds of saltpetre and forty-nine pounds of live sulphur; and also two hundred and forty-two pounds of pure live sulphur. Payments occur to workmen for making powder and pellets of lead for guns at the Tower of London. There were purchased coal and five hundred of "talwode" for casting the lead and drying the powder; four trays of wood, and brazen pots and dishes, for drying the powder over the fire and by the sun; also leather bags to hold the same powder; two brass mortars, three iron pestles; twelve iron spoons to make leaden bullets; ten moulds of laton, to make the same; one pair of scales to weigh the powder; thirty small barrels, with hasps and staples, to hold the bullets; thirty small hanging locks for the said thirty barrels; two hundred and twenty pounds of saltpetre; two "sarces;" eighteen bellows; earthen pots and pans to dry the powder by the fire and sun; and willows for making charcoal.—*Nicholas's "Royal Navy."*

Miscellany.

A BIBLIOGRAPHICAL CURIOSITY.—A volume, which is probably the rarest if not the most curious and interesting printed book in existence, either in this country or Europe, was purchased recently in London, by Wiley & Putnam, for an American gentleman. It is the *BIBLIA PAUPERUM*, a specimen of the *Block Books*—"the connecting links between Manuscripts and Typography." The rarity and interest of these block books are well known to bibliographers. The following is Horne's account of them:—

"Although the invention of paper, in the close of the thirteenth, or early in the fourteenth century, rendered the transcription of books less expensive, yet their cost necessarily placed them out of the reach of the middling and lower classes, who (it is well known) were immersed in the deepest ignorance. Means, however,

were subsequently devised, in order to convey a rude idea of the leading facts of Scripture, by means of the *Block Books* or *Books of Images*, as they are termed by Bibliographers.

"The manufacturers of playing cards, which were first invented and painted in the fourteenth century, had in the following century begun to engrave on wood the images of the saints, to which they afterwards added some verses or sentences analogous to the subject. As the art of engraving on wood proceeded, its professors at length composed historical subjects (chiefly if not entirely) taken from the Scriptures, with a text or explanation engraved on the same blocks. These form the *Books of Images* or *Block Books*: they were printed from wooden blocks; one side of the leaf only is impressed, and the corresponding text is placed below, beside, or proceeding out of the mouth of the figures introduced.

"Of all the *Xylographic* works, that is, such as are printed from wooden blocks, the *Biblia Pauperum* is, perhaps, the rarest as well as the most ancient; it is a manual, or kind of catechism of the Bible, for the use of young persons and of the common people, whence it derives its name—*Biblia Pauperum*, the Bible of the Poor; who were thus enabled to acquire, at a comparatively low price, an imperfect knowledge of some of the events recorded in the Scriptures.

"Being much in use, the few copies of it which are at present to be found in the libraries of the curious, are, for the most part, either mutilated or in a bad condition. The extreme rarity of this book, and the circumstances under which it was produced, concur to impart a high degree of interest to it."—*Introd. to the SS.* vol. ii.

Rare, however, as are the Latin editions of this work, they are all of frequent occurrence when compared with this German translation, of which no other copy besides the present is known to exist, with the exception of that in the Ducal Library of Saxe-Gotha (and a fragment in the Library at Wolfenbützel). Both copies have the cuts colored; but in this copy there is one peculiarity which greatly enhances its value—it has a duplicate page uncolored. It is a small quarto volume, in wonderful preservation, containing about twenty leaves. It was printed in the year 1470. This identical volume produced, at a sale in Paris in 1825, the sum of 3020 francs, and has now been repurchased for £110, say five hundred and fifty dollars.

A Clipping for the English Newspapers (which will see something fresh in the whole thing):—

SHOOTING IN THE STREETS.—The practice which has obtained to a considerable extent among the police, of firing pistols at random, when in pursuit of thieves or other transgressors of the law, cannot be too strongly condemned. While pursuing the purloiner of some produce from a market wagon on Tuesday night last, a watchman fired his pistol near the corner of Third and Broadway, the ball from which, the Chronicle states, entered the window of the sleeping apartment of a gentleman residing in the neighborhood, passed directly over the bed where he and his wife were asleep, and buried itself in a door on the opposite side of the room. Our watchmen, if they deem it necessary to fire at all to frighten fugitives (for we believe that is their sole reason for so doing), should be very careful to elevate their pistols perpendicularly. —*Cincinnati Gazette.*

ADVANTAGE OF POLITICS OVER LITERATURE AS A CAREER.—The Duke of Norfolk appears to have been friendly to Shelby; noticing him after his marriage and the alienation of his father. There is great shrewdness and aristocratic view in this advice which he gave on politics, as quoted in Medwin's book:

"The Duke of Norfolk, who was a friend of

his father, and to whom his grandfather owed his title, often engaged him, when dining, as he occasionally did in St. James's Square, to turn his thoughts towards politics. 'You cannot direct your attention too early to them,' said the Duke: 'they are the proper career of a young man of ability and of your station in life: that career is most advantageous, because it is a monopoly. A little success in that line goes far, since the number of competitors is limited; and of those who are admitted to the contest, the greater part are wholly devoid of talent, or too indolent to exert themselves. So many are excluded, that of the few who are permitted to enter it is difficult to find any that are not utterly unfit for the ordinary service of the State. It is not so in the church; it is not so at the bar. There all may offer themselves. In letters, your chance of success is still worse: there none can win gold, and all may try to gain reputation; it is a struggle for glory; the competition is infinite; there are no bounds; that is a spacious field indeed, a sea without a shore.'"

DEMISE OF THE GIPSY CROWN.—Will Faa, the Gipsy King, died at Kirk-Yetholm last week, the old man having attained his 96th year. He is the last of the Faa tribe, and his successor, who is named Blyth, lacking the blood royal, at least by direct transmission, will wield the sceptre by sufferance. Faa kept his crown tolerably unsullied, having never been in gaol during his long life, and he was as proud of his pedigree as if he had all the blood of the Howards purpling in his veins. The great Scotch hoveff of the tribe is and has been the parish of Yetholm, but the race is gradually dying out, or assimilating with other classes, and, in a short time, will live only in the pages of "Guy Mannering." Derneleugh has some attraction in the pages of the novel, but seen in Yetholm selling pottery, and making horn spoons, the Egyptian visages lose their romance, and share the common fate of all enchantment when divested of distance. —*London Atlas.*

A Roman sword-blade, in a beautiful state of preservation, has been dug up in Bath, at the gas station. It is of brass, the metal beautifully tempered to almost the fineness of steel, and bears evidence of having been richly plated with gold. It is about sixteen inches in length, and, save one indentation of the edge, caused by the implement of the workman who turned it up, is as perfect, from hilt to point, as when it first left the hand of the artificer. The gentleman in whose possession it is intends to present it to the Archaeological Society. —*Id.*

THE BARON ALEXANDER VON HUMBOLDT, who has entirely recovered from his severe illness, and again enjoys good health and his usual vigor of constitution, entered his 80th year on the 14th Sept. His birthday was celebrated with quiet festivity. On the 15th he was at the meeting of physicians, naturalists, and literati, which took place at Aix-la-Chapelle, where his presence excited the liveliest emotion among the numerous learned and scientific men there assembled. The energetic veteran, whose elasticity of mind is quite unimpaired, is about to proceed to Paris to supervise the French translation and publication of his second volume of *Cosmos*. —*London Lit. Gaz.*

THE CANAL THROUGH THE ISTHMUS OF SUEZ.—Mr. Negrelli, accompanied by several engineers, will sail for Egypt, from Trieste, in a few weeks, in order to commence the works of the canal through the Isthmus of Suez, in conjunction with England and France. The Austrian government has made it a primary stipulation that Mr. Negrelli shall quit the service of the state, in order that the undertaking shall bear nothing of an official character, in the event of any question arising with the Pasha of Egypt. —*London Lit. Gaz.*

Recent Publications.

Evangeline, a Tale of Acadia. Boston: W. D. Ticknor.

PROFESSOR LONGFELLOW's new Poem is a very pleasing and classic production, modelled like Goethe's Hermann and Dorothea, on the hexameter model of Greek and Roman epic verses. Tastefulness and scholastic fancy, and an ear finely attuned to the most delicate and artful harmonies, distinguish this elegant production, and give it a place beside the similar earlier attempts of the writer, e.g. his graceful version of Tegner's Children, of the Lord's Supper, and the picturesque description of scenes in Germany, quaint old cities and rich cathedrals of the middle ages.

Complete Poetical Works of Lord Byron. New York: Appleton.

This is the latest edition of Byron's complete works, a facsimile, we believe, of Galignani's first edition. Expensive and elaborate publications like this do honor to the trade; and, being issued at this season, form the best and most appropriate book presents for the coming holidays.

As a poet of passion, Byron undoubtedly takes the highest rank among English Bards of this century, while his satiric wit gives him the first place also among the poetical satirists of the age. Making all due allowance for extravagance and the other prominent defects of his Muse, Byron has left poems and passages of genuine and irresistible power and pathos, though he certainly failed as a dramatist, and has written a goodly quantity of "balams" in the printer's dialect.

The beautiful reprint by the Messrs. Harper of the edition of Thomson's Seasons, illustrated by seventy-six delicate designs by the Etching Club, is almost equal to the original, which is certainly saying a great deal, for these editions of Thomson and Goldsmith, by this Association, are most choice and beautiful. It is an evidence of the growth of good taste in the reading community, the demand for these classical works, which we hope may prove, as they doubtless will, unusually acceptable.

McMurtie's Scientific Lexicon. Philadelphia; E. C. & J. Biddle. 12mo. pp. 246.

THE above is a dictionary of terms, technical and scientific; some of which, we must confess, a tolerably informed man might pass respectfully through life without being acquainted with (vide Johnson's Life of Cowley). But the intention of the book is evidently good, and it will prove useful to those who wish to extend their knowledge of nomenclature. It is neatly got up.

Xenophon's Memorabilia. Andover: Wardwell.

A NEW edition of the Greek classical historian and biographer, an Athenian Southey as to style, and the subjects of his composition. The editor, R. D. C. Robbins, Librarian of the Theological Seminary, has prefixed an interesting critical preface and clear arguments.

Xenophon and Plato, together give us almost as complete an idea of Socrates, as Boswell has given us of Johnson. And no man certainly ever more merited richly to be enshrined to all ages, in the immortal writings of the greatest of the ancient philosophers and one of the most elegant of the ancient historians, than he "whom the oracle pronounced uninspired to be wisest of men." A translation of this work was the early favorite of Dr. Franklin, and the peculiar style of discussion, doubtless, had no slight influence on his own attractive conversational genius.

Consular Cities of China. By Rev. George Smith. Harpers. Part I.

THE present is a narrative of an exploratory visit to each of the Consular cities of China, and to the Islands of Hong Kong and Chusan, by a late Missionary of the Church of England. It

will be concluded in a second part, and is illustrated by numerous engravings.

It is quite a full and interesting account of this most interesting country; one, only lately accessible to any extent, since the period of British occupation.

Voltaire and the writers of the last century, French and English, especially the former, were extremely fond of talking about the Chinese, of whom they knew little enough. A new spirit is now abroad, and something like toleration and liberal feeling is to be found in the Celestial Empire.

The lectures of Mr. Cushing and Fletcher Webster, last winter, let in more light on the subject, than the public had received from any other source since the days of Lord Macartney's embassy, chronicled by Mr. Barrow.

The Junk last summer was one of the notabilities of the city, and gave us some insight into the naval architecture of that most singular people, The Chinese Museum (now at Boston we believe) will teach the New York public a great deal more yet about the interior civilization of that vast empire.

If some enterprising man would import some good panoramas of Canton, Peking, &c., he would find it a lucrative affair. Meanwhile we commend this new account of the Celestials to the reading public in general, as a vivid transcription of life in China.

A New Medical Dictionary, on the basis of Hooper and Grant, adapted to the present state of science, for the use of Medical Students and the Profession. By D. Pereira Gardiner, M.D. New York: Harper & Brothers. 1847.

THE labor of the Lexicographer is proverbially unappreciated and disregarded. It is his province to work in a sphere peculiarly dry and uninteresting. Unlike the novelist, the dramatic author, the historian, or the poet, he supplies nothing from fancy—borrows nothing from the imagination. It is his part to work with plain unvarnished facts, to be himself correct, in order that others, by reference to his writings, may also be correct. Without the charm of novelty in his compositions—because that what he sets down is already known and acted on—without the stimulus of any plot or mystery to be worked out, by which the reader is kept in happy suspense to the conclusion, his productions must follow a preconceived, fixed, and alphabetical arrangement. Nevertheless, to write a Dictionary, and more especially a Medical Dictionary, is a work of vast importance, great responsibility, and requiring, in an eminent degree, the qualities of patience, vigilance, judgment, and research in the author: so multitudinous are the phrases, so vast the vocabulary of what comes under the head of Medical Science, that constant reference is required to the Dictionary, even by the most eminent practitioners, while to the student such an aid to the knowledge of his profession is of course indispensable. It is, perhaps, to be regretted, that the beautiful structure of medical science should be encumbered with so much superfluous verbiage.

It is the duty of the compiler of a Medical Dictionary to select such authorities as will impress the mind of the student with correct information upon all subjects within the range of such a work, to explain the meaning of such words as are usually employed, or which may be introduced by the necessities of our language, and to do this in a manner commensurate with the size, arrangement, or disposition of the volume.

The work before us, *Gardiner's Medical Dictionary*, is based upon Hooper's Medical Dictionary, a work which has for years sustained the reputation of being the best book of reference on medical nomenclature in the English language. Dr. Pereira Gardiner having adopted this as the foundation of his American Dictionary, has adapted it to the present state of medical science, and for the use of students and the profession. Its principal features appear to be conciseness in expression and practical utility, especially to medical students. In the short

preface affixed to the volume the author states that he "has made an addition of many thousand articles in the department of chemistry, physiology, surgery, and the practice of medicine."

The book is well printed, on good paper, and got up by the Harpers in a convenient form, and will undoubtedly meet a favorable reception at the hands of the medical portion of the community.

Bibliotheca Sacra and Theological Review, November, 1847. Andover: W. H. Wardwell. New York and London: Wiley & Putnam.

THE present number of the *Bibliotheca Sacra* forms the sixteenth of the new series, and thus concludes its fourth volume. We are sorry to see it stated in the Prospectus of the Fifth Volume that, "the sale of the work has thus far not even defrayed the necessary expenses of publishing it." The number of its subscribers has been slowly increasing, but is yet inadequate to remunerate the publishers for their actual expenses. On account of this insufficient subscription, the work has not been made as valuable as it might otherwise have been. Articles of great ability, and which would have done honor to American talent, have not been inserted or framed, because the expenses necessary to the printing of them, and the accompanying illustrations, would be greater than the limited resources of the work could justify.

We know not how to account for this neglect of one of the most truly valuable publications of which our country can boast, except on the supposition that those who know it only by its title regard it as an exclusively theological work. That this is a decided mistake, we will show by a list of the articles in the number before us. They are—

I. *Chrysostom, Archbishop of Constantinople, viewed as a Preacher*. This article is a well executed translation from the German of C. F. Paniel, and is made to furnish a complete view of the life and character of this eloquent father of the Church.

II. *The Festivals of the Christian Church compared with those of other ancient forms of Religion*. It treats of the relations of the festivals of the Church to the seasons of the year, to the festivals of the Jews, and to those of Pagan nations. This last topic is especially curious, and, in its ultimate bearings, not without importance.

III. *The Sanscrit Language in its relation to Comparative Philology*. A subject of interest, but treated here without much originality or elegance of method.

IV. *Zumpt's Latin Grammar*. A continuation from the previous number of an article by C. Siedhof, in the elaborated minute style of criticism in which Germans delight.

V. *The Preaching of Christ to the Spirits in Prison—Remarks on 1 Pet. 3, 18-21*.

VI. *Languages in Africa—Comparison between the Mandingo, Grebo, and Mpongwe Dialects*. This paper, from the pen of the Rev. J. L. Wilson, is replete with original views and information respecting the races and languages of Western Africa. The writings of the Missionaries of Europe, both Catholic and Protestant, and such topics, form a monument to their honor, which will endure after many of the savage tribes and tongues, which they describe, shall have passed away. We hope that the present will be the precursor of a series of similar contributions from American missionaries to the history of our race.

VII. *The University of Oxford*. Contains some able hints and warnings on the subject of liberal education.

VIII. *Worcester's Dictionary*. A mere commendatory notice of the book, not a critical estimate of its merits and defects.

IX. *Select Biblical and Literary Intelligence*. From this enumeration it will be seen that, so far as this publication from being devoted to the wants of clergymen merely, that there is but one article (Art. V.) in the present number

of a purely theological character, while the rest are on subjects of great and permanent interest to the literary man in general, and to the philosophical, whether oriental or classical, in particular. All that we perceive to be wanting is, that the editors should be enabled to exercise a more rigid censorship over the articles offered for insertion. And we cannot permit ourselves to think that it will long be suffered to languish for want of proper support, when its comprehensive character and sterling merit are more widely known among our literary countrymen; or that it will long be possible to say, that "the patronage of the work is now confined almost exclusively to Great Britain and to the states of Massachusetts and Connecticut."

We intend, in future, to give it our humble aid and support, by continuing to notice the contents of its numbers as they successively appear.

The Generals and Commodores of the American Army and Navy. By Thomas Wyatt. Philadelphia: Carey & Hart.

THIS truly national work, though limited to the number of those whose deeds of glory have been fully recognised by our people, and rewarded with medals by Congress, is still so intimately connected with the precedent epochs of our history, that it cannot fail of a right hearty welcome. The Biographies are concisely written, giving us intimations of a general career, but very properly making the point of history to which the medal was awarded, the principal feature of interest. Extraneous and conflicting opinions regarding the life in general, are tastefully omitted, and we are presented only with the hero in his day of trial, surrounded with the trophies of success.

In regard to the sketch of Burrows, we apprehend better material might have been gathered in the vicinity of his last resting-place. It strikes us that the commendations and poetry addressed to a private individual in his case, have a most incongruous aspect, very like a boy's dab of paint upon a gorgeous ruin. We do not know how long the elegant monument referred to, was sacred to the memory of the hero of the enterprise, but every school-child for years in the pleasant city of Portland, has been in the habit of making his pilgrimage to the plain monuments of the two brave foes who repose side by side. The general aspect of the burial-ground flanking the sides of a hill, is cheerless and desolate in the extreme, but commanding as it does a noble view of the sea, as it heaves itself beyond Whitehead out to the unbroken ocean, it is a most fitting resting-place for these two champions whose destiny was wrought out upon its bosom.

The work is elegantly printed, with engraved representations of the different medals in a fine style of engraving, and as a whole is a valuable addition to the library, as well as an elegant ornament for the centre table.

Thoughts and Maxims. By Rev. H. Hooker. Philadelphia.

THE author of this volume is an Episcopal clergyman, who has composed devotional and religious works, that have commanded favor and popularity.

In the present volume he has shown a just and sound spirit of reflection, considerable observation, with a good deal of subtlety. His style is terse and clear.

CXX. Some propositions are proved by the fact that they are not disprovable.

XCVII. When the rights of women are much talked of, they are little respected.—As would be naturally expected, in a body of CCCX Maxims, some would be trite and commonplace, but by much the larger number are fresh and original, in form, if not in matter.

Mr. Hooker's volume lacks the satirical wit of parts of Lacon, but it is almost as clever, and certainly no less, if not much more, elevated in its tone. It is a capital book of its class, one which numbers very few successful attempts of the same kind.

The author of Proverbial Philosophy seems to have brought the aphoristic style of writing again into vogue. It is, however, a species of literature in which comparatively few are adapted to excel. The presentation of single thoughts requires, to be attractive, either great and original reflective power or rare beauty of expression. The maxims of Rochefoucault owe their celebrity to the intense worldly wisdom attributed to them; those of Colton published under the title of *Lacon*, to the terse utterance of moral truths, those of Archbishop Leighton to the spiritual results they unfold. Mr. Hooker, the author of the little volume before us, belongs to a class far better appreciated half a century ago than at present. He is a worthy successor of Jonathan Edwards—a theologian by nature as well as study. He has, as we have before observed, published two volumes on Religious subjects—the tone and manner of which are more like those old treatises on divinity from which the famous polemics of New England drew their arguments, than any recent writings with which we are acquainted. The “Thoughts and Maxims” before us are concise utterances of truth—many of them strikingly expressed. They indicate familiarity with suffering, acuteness of mind and religious feeling. From the “Thoughts” of a general kind, the reader of any persuasion may gather wisdom. We have room but for a few further extracts, to give an idea of the author’s style:

XIV. To possess anything we must enjoy it; what we call ours is otherwise but a bondage, we are under to it.

XXII. More self-denial and thought are often expended to keep up the show of what we have not, than would be required in restricting ourselves to the hardest realities.

LXXVII. A great and far-seeing mind never fears the influence or control of other minds. It can condescend, it can yield to the irony of others without losing its own, or parting with its sense of elevation. It can afford to do what lesser minds dare not; what they feel humbled and displaced in doing.

CXXXIII. Men are generally too much harassed and exhausted in the contest for gain, to take any interest in the contest with error.

XXXIII. The soul without action is like an instrument not played upon, or like a ship in port, knowing no process but that of decay.

XCIX. The union of imagination with intellect, and of enthusiasm with sense, attests a mind of a great order, and a heart in which nature, honesty, and goodness are as instincts, however much these last may want regularity and principle in their disclosures.

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